Foreign Broadcast Information Service

50 ANNIVERSARY 1941 - 1991

Daily Report

Latin America

FBIS-LAT-91-119
Thursday
20 June 1991

Daily Report
Latin America

FBIS-LAT-91-119 *20 June 1991*

CONTENTS

NOTICE TO READERS: An * indicates material not disseminated in electronic form.

CARIBBEAN

Cuba

Havana Notes Political 'Crisis' in Nicaragua *[Havana TV]* 1
UNIAC Deems Statements 'Enemy Operation' *[Havana Radio]* 1
Mexican Ambassador on Bilateral Relations, Trade *[Havana Radio]* 2
Interview Continues *[Havana Radio]* 2
Uruguayan Communist Official on Joint Solidarity *[Havana TV]* 3
PRC Health Minister Ends Visit, Comments *[Havana Radio]* 4
DPRK Expands Construction Materials Cooperation *[Havana Radio]* 4
Panel Participants Discuss Foreign Trade *[Havana Radio]* 4

Inter-Caribbean Affairs

OECS Agenda Features Founding of Common Market *[CANA]* 8

Antigua and Barbuda

Parliament Passes Bill To Eliminate Corruption *[Bonaire Radio]* 8

Haiti

Operation Storm Wind Begins, Dismissals Demanded *[Port-au-Prince Radio]* 8
Information Minister Demands Sincere Dialogue *[Port-au-Prince Radio]* 9
New Ministers Discuss Priorities With Press *[Port-au-Prince Radio]* 9
Minister To Greet Repatriated Sugarcane Workers *[Port-au-Prince Radio]* 9

Dominican Republic

Nationwide Strike Called For 3, 4 Jul *[Santo Domingo Radio]* 10

CENTRAL AMERICA

El Salvador

Rebels Deny FMLN Rift, Arms From Cuba *[DIARIO LATINO 17 Jun]* 11
Army for Democracy Reaffirms Charges of Torture *[Radio Venceremos]* 11
Anticommunists Threaten International Agencies *[San Salvador Radio]* 12

Guatemala

Incident Involving Arzu, U.S. Envoy Downplayed *[PRENSA LIBRE 17 Jun]* 12
Vice President Dismisses Coup Warning *[PRENSA LIBRE 17 Jun]* 12
Five Political Parties Reject Violence *[SIGLO VEINTIUNO 17 Jun]* 12

Nicaragua

Proposed Repeal of Laws 85, 86 Sparks Violence 13
Government Minister Comments *[Managua Radio]* 13
D. Ortega Reads FSLN Communique *[Managua Radio]* 14
Daniel Ortega News Conference *[Managua Radio]* 15

Bombs Explode in Major Cites *[Managua Radio]* 18
Finance Ministry Hit *[Managua Radio]* 18
Matagalpa Mayor's Office Occupied *[Managua Radio]* 19
Corinto Mayor's Office Seized *[Managua Radio]* 19
Radio Dario Taken Over *[Managua Radio]* 19
Weapons Use Denied *[ACAN]* 20
Protestors' Goals, Plans Outlined *[Leon Radio]* 21
Government Threatens Force *[Managua Radio]* 21
Registration of Property Promised *[Managua Radio]* 21
Commentary Condemns Bombings *[Managua Radio]* 22
Dario Radio Carries FLP Bulletin *[Leon Radio]* 22
Ramirez Urges Disobedience *[Manaqua Radio]* 23
Occupation of Radios Updated *[Managua Radio]* 23
FLP Ends Radio Station Occupation *[Leon Radio]* 23
Police Evict 50 From Corporacion *[AFP]* 24
D'Escoto Notes Talks With Municipal Authorities *[Managua Radio]* 24
Extradition of EPS Deserter, Two Others Requested *[Managua Radio]* 24
Telcor Workers Strike for Wage Hike *[Mexico City NOTIMEX]* 25

Panama

'Dissatisfaction' With Endara Government Noted *[Panama TV]* 25
Ford on Economic Proposals, Reported Plots *[Panama TV]* 25
PLA Wants Fulfillment of 'Parliamentary Pact' *[EL PANAMA AMERICA 19 Jun]* 26
Weapons Seized at Costa Rican Border Confirmed *[Panama TV]* 26

SOUTH AMERICA

Argentina

Foreign Ministry on RSA Apartheid Decision *[TELAM]* 27
Police Arrest Neo-Nazi Leader in Buenos Aires *[TELAM]* 27

Bolivia

Government 'Satisfaction' Over Escobar Surrender *[Madrid EFE]* 27
Paz Approves German Cooperation Agreement *[La Paz TV]* 27

Brazil

Collor Interviewed at Embassy in Washington *[Brasilia Radio]* 27
Government on South African Apartheid Law *[Brasilia Radio]* 28
Collor Asserts Authority Over Debt Negotiator *[O GLOBO 18 Jun]* 28
Business Growth Fosters Dialogue With Government *[Rio de Janeiro TV]* 28
Agriculture Minister Discusses Expropriations *[Brasilia Radio]* 29

Chile

Malaysian Prime Minister Begins Official Visit *[Madrid EFE]* 29
• Opposition Toughens Positions in Congress *[ERCILLA 1 May]* 30
German Dignity Colony Loses Legal Status *[Santiago Radio]* 31

Colombia

Extradition Ban, Escobar Surrender Reported 31
National Assembly Vote on Ban *[Bogota TV]* 31
Medellin Cartel Members Surrender *[Bogota Radio]* 31
Escobar Surrender Confirmed *[Bogota Radio]* 32
Escobar Arrives at Jail *[Bogota Radio]* 32
Escobar Issues Communique *[AFP]* 32
Gaviria News Conference *[Bogota Radio]* 33
DEA Plane Said To Violate Valle Airspace *[Bogota TV]* 37

Paraguay

President To Attend Summit, Visit Venezuela *[NOTICIAS 19 Jun]* 38
Agriculture Minister Meets Brazilian Counterpart *[PATRIA 14 Jun]* 38
Brazil Offers Broad Cooperation *[ABC COLOR 15 Jun]* 38
Dec Constituent Assembly Election Planned *[PATRIA 19 Jun]* 38

Peru

Miners Federation Calls Off National Strike *[Madrid EFE]* 38
Executive Branch Given Legislative Powers *[Lima TV]* 39
Fisheries Minister Denies Irregularities *[Lima TV]* 39
Suspected Colombian Drug Plane Shot Down *[Madrid EFE]* 39

Venezuela

Former Governor Ramirez Linked to Drugs *[Caracas TV]* 39
* Rising Costs of PDVSA Development Studied *[NUMERO 19 May]* 40

Guyana

U.S. Aid To Fund Development Projects *[CANA]* 41
Hoyte, Venezuelan President Hold 1-Day Talks *[Bonaire Radio]* 41
New Commission Confident of Fair Elections *[CANA]* 41

Suriname

Army, Jungle Commando To Hold Peace Talks *[Paramaribo Radio]* 42
Three Meetings Held *[Paramaribo Radio]* 42

Cuba

Havana Notes Political 'Crisis' in Nicaragua

FL1906153791 Havana Tele Rebelde Network in Spanish 1330 GMT 19 Jun 91

[From the "En Caliente" program on the Morning Magazine with Daniel Torres]

[Text] Well, I wanted to relate to you that everything seems to indicate that Nicaragua is about to enter into a crisis, important from the political viewpoint, with the occurrence of serious disruptions in the National Assembly. Today, they say, thousands of people are gathered at Managua City Hall, in the Nicaraguan capital, to protest an effort by the National Assembly, to present a proposed law [rephrases] done, they have already done it, to overturn laws of significant social benefit.

This concerns laws Number 85 and 86 approved in 1990 when the Sandinists held a majority in the National Assembly and, therefore, they are trying to overturn these laws. They are laws that transfer properties to city and rural residents, not only houses but also important quantities of land, and they are trying now to return these lands to the Somozist landholders in Nicaragua. Of course, this has provoked a significant reaction by the people. This has brought the people into the streets, and provoked a strong labor union reaction.

There was pandemonium in the National Assembly in the Nicaraguan capital yesterday when, in a totally unexpected way, the president of the Assembly, Alfredo Cesar—you will surely remember this name; Alfredo Cesar was a leader of the anti-Sandinist counterrevolution who lived in Miami for a long time. Well, it happens that Alfredo Cesar is currently the president of the National Assembly, and he announced that they are cutting off the dialogue of a special commission between the Sandinists and the coalition centered in the UNO, the National Opposition Union. This dialogue was an attempt to regulate these laws, to regulate these special transfers of property. What is certain is, they cut off this dialogue in the most alarming way, because Alfredo Cesar informed the plenum that the dialogue was ended even as the Sandinists and representatives of the UNO were meeting in the special commission. When this happened, the Sandinists decided to walk out of the National Assembly together and leave the meeting. This was a solidarity gesture toward the thousands of people that are demanding that they hand over the titles to these lands and that they hand over the property that they acquired during the period of the Sandinist revolution.

Additionally, comments last night by ex-President Sergio Ramirez, current leader of the Sandinist delegation in the National Assmebly, indicate that today, they, the parliamentarians, will take to the streets to unite themselves with the people and fight so this does not happen, so these laws are not overturned.

In fact, the proposal has gone to committee, that is, this proposal to overturn these laws in Nicaragua has been proposed and is being studied by the Justice Committee. From a legal standpoint, they have three weeks to make a study and present the proposal, perhaps with a few modifications, to the plenum. From there it will go forward and become law. Therefore, they will nullify all of these titles that were promulgated by the Sandinist; these lands will return to the landholders; these houses will go back to the landowners; and the people will be denied these successes, these victories that they gained during the Sandinist revolution.

This is how it is, a summary, it seems, that it involves a legal dispute, but imagine how thousands of resutling dusputes could lead to a serious social catastrophe, could lead to a serious political crisis, above all, since the Sandinist assemblymen are united with the Nicaraguan people, and the situation could not be more tense.

Just yesterday, Nicaraguan President Mrs. Violetta Chamorro, indicated [rephrases] Violeta Barrios de Chamorro, indicated to the assembly [rephrases] called upon the assembly to take a cooling-off period to continue discussions with the Sandinists on these laws, with the possibility of arriving at some agreement, some understanding. Totally out of the blue, however, Alfredo Cesar announced that the conversations were finished without presenting the presidential request to the assembly. The proposals were presented and passed immediately to committee; therefore, they are hurrying the steps necessary to overturn Laws 85 and 86 that allowed the transfers that the Sandinist revolution made of important properties to the people. Not only, I repeat, in the cities but also important lands that were transferred to the small farmers in the interior of Nicaragua. I call your attention to this because this could become a detonator, a powderkeg in a truly sad history which Nicaragua is living that has brought the people, again, into the streets, has brought the unions, again, to demands, to protest, to popular solidarity.

The streets right now look like some type of beehive, according to photos and according to calls that we have made to journalist friends to understand this happening in the Central American sub-region. The possibility of a serious political crisis, an earthquake, in Nicaragua, because of this parliamentary situation is a reality that could happen any time now, lamentably, to the Nicaraguan people.

UNIAC Deems Statements 'Enemy Operation'

PA1906182791 Havana Radio Havana Cuba in Spanish 0000 GMT 19 Jun 91

[Text] The Broader National Council of the Union of Writers and Artists of Cuba, UNIAC, has agreed to admonish the attitude of a small group of intellectuals, who tried to pose as the pioneers of an impending reform in the country but who are really carrying out an enemy operation.

The statement issued by the UNIAC on 14 June, which was reported today by the newspaper GRANMA, expressed that beyond any political consideration, being an intellectual, author, or an artist also entails an ethical responsibility. It represents a character of personal dignity and self-respect. After describing as shameful the collaboration of that group of intellectuals with those who are blocking, attacking, and threatening Cuba, the document notes that the Cuban artists and writers are willing to make some rectifications in the pursuit of original solutions.

Quoting the UNIAC statement, the GRANMA report further states that, in a practically unipolar world subjected to the will of North American imperialism and amid countless material difficulties, the Cuban revolution is experiencing its most difficult period, and any alternative for changes should be implemented without affecting unity and the basic principles of our process. Thus, it continues, we should clearly unmask those who want to earn a reputation outside of Cuba, thanks to betraying others and not on the merit of their own work, if they have any.

Mexican Ambassador on Bilateral Relations, Trade

PA1906171691 Havana Radio Havana Cuba in Spanish 0000 GMT 18 Jun 91

["First part" of interview with Mexican Ambassador to Cuba Mario Moya Palencia by Nancy Lopez; place and date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Lopez] Today we have the pleasure of talking with Mr. Mario Moya Palencia, Mexico's ambassador to Havana.

Mr. Ambassador, recently a Cuban delegation headed by Ernesto Melendez, minister president of the State Committee for Economic Cooperation, visited your country and met with representatives of the state and private sectors of Mexico. As a result, important agreements on expanding trade and bilateral cooperation were reached.

What is your opinion about the possibility of expanding bilateral economic relations at this moment?

[Moya Palencia] Minister Melendez' important visit to Mexico was another expression of the revitalization of economic and, especially, commercial relations between our two countries. These relations have acquired special importance in recent months.

In April, the National Bank of Cuba and the Foreign Trade Bank of Mexico signed an agreement on mutual cooperation to revitalize commercial trends between Cuba and Mexico.

I am sure that this visit by Minister Melendez, as well as the contacts he made not only with the public sector of Mexico but also with its private sector, are in line with this agreement, which is aimed not only at the purchase of nontraditional goods and services between the two countries, but also at establishing associations or joint production efforts. These joint projects would produce specific goods that cannot be produced in Cuba or in Mexico, but that can be produced jointly to face the production challenge and be able to share revenues secured in the international market.

There are several fields of interest to Mexico, which may want to acquire products from Cuba that it has not traditionally acquired here. In addition to sugar, rum, coffee, some types of steel, and other such products, Mexico is now thinking about acquiring Cuban biochemical and biotechnological products, medical products, medical instruments, medicine, and other items produced by this very modern sector of Cuban technology.

We are closely considering some joint production enterprises in the textiles field. This could involve, perhaps, raffia bags for Cuba's sugar exports. This, I would say, is important for Cuba's sugar industry.

The joint production effort could also involve the refining of nickel, something which is very important because of the large nickel deposits that exist in Cuba and their high quality. The effort could also include the production of cement. Mexico is an important producer of cement, and Cuba has an important cement plant that is operating at 50-percent capacity.

If we join efforts, Mexico could take advantage of Cuban-made cement to supply Mexico's eastern region—the Yucatan Peninsula and the Gulf of Mexico—where there are not too many Mexican cement plants since most of them are on the Pacific side, because most of them export their output to the Pacific basin.

There is the tourist industry. Mexico has fallen behind and has not invested on this field as much as we should. We draw approximately 50,000 tourists annually and they represent one of the most important tourist groups. Our two nations are cooperating more closely already.

I am sure that many new steps will be taken. Mexican commercial missions and businessmen are coming here practically every day.

On our part, we are waiting for Commander Castro to visit Guadalajara.

Interview Continues

PA2006012191 Havana Radio Havana Cuba in Spanish 0000 GMT 19 Jun 91

["Second and last part" of interview with Mexican Ambassador to Cuba Mario Moya Palencia by Nancy Lopez; place and date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Lopez] A group of Florida congressmen have asked U.S. President George Bush to withdraw citrus products and tobacco from the U.S. free trade agreement with Mexico because their inclusion in the agreement could benefit Cuba. What do you think about this?

[Moya Palencia] I read that report in some newspaper. The news is confusing. What I can tell you is that the free trade agreement is being negotiated between Mexico, the United States, and Canada.

In line with Mexico's sovereignty, our country will not sign the treaty if it does not fully conform to our Constitution and does not protect our sovereignty, our resources, and our right to make decisions on our trade. It would be uncanny to find that a free trade agreement places limitations on our trade.

The free trade treaty will have a chapter dealing with the origin of Mexican, U.S., and Canadian goods that will circulate in the three countries, completely free of customs and taxes. It is obvious that only the goods that meet the requirements of origin, and not goods from third countries, will circulate enjoying this dispensation.

It appears that the intention of some of the most conservative U.S. congressmen is to keep Cuba from indirectly benefiting from the treaty, but I think this is impossible because one of the most positive aspects of the treaty is that in addition to benefiting the countries that will sign it, which is the main objective, it will also benefit the countries with which the treaty countries do commerce. This is how it has to be.

For example, no one can prevent Mexico from exporting products to the United States or from acquiring these products in case there is a shortage or insufficient production in Cuba, or Argentina, or France, or wherever it may be. These would be products that Mexico needs for its own consumption, not for reexporting them as if they were Mexican products. That would not make sense because there is the regulation on the country of origin.

If those congressmen think that way, it is because they do not understand what a free trade agreement is. What happens, you know, is that there is a great deal of misunderstanding. It is said—for foreign consumption—that there must be general commercial freedom, but there are many forces that favor protectionism, blockades, embargoes—like the illegal embargo on Mexican tuna—and restrictions on trade, which must always be free. The new idea of general commercial freedom is not compatible with prohibitions on commerce.

[Lopez] Mr. Ambassador, a while ago you referred to the presence of Cuban President Fidel Castro at the Guadalajara Ibero-Latin American summit meeting, which will take place in July. Is this invitation that Mexico has given Cuba, through President Fidel Castro, another piece of evidence of Mexico's position of supporting Cuba and of promoting Latin American integration?

[Moya Palencia] The Ibero-Latin American summit is President Carlos Salinas de Gortari's idea. The objective is to gather together all the heads of state and government of the Latin American countries, and also those of Spain and Portugal.

This is, as you have said, another step in an integration process that involves not only economic and commercial aspects, but also cultural and political. The heads of state of the industrialized nations, of the Asian countries, and especially the heads of state of Africa, meet frequently.

The chiefs of state of Ibero-America do not meet frequently, and when they have met on an infrequent basis, they have not been the ones who actually convened the meetings.

I believe, therefore, that this meeting is evidence of a move to unity that is not just being made by Mexico because Mexico convened the meeting. This is evidence of Ibero-American unity, and Cuba, of course, forms an integral and unalterable part of this. You know that Mexico's position has always been that conditions must be created so that Cuba may become closer to the so-called inter-American system, and especially to the Latin or Ibero-American nations.

Therefore, it is not strange that President Salinas has invited President Castro with special interest and warmth, and expects to receive him in Guadalajara.

[Lopez] Thank you, Mr. Ambassador.

Uruguayan Communist Official on Joint Solidarity

FL1906182691 Havana Tele Rebelde Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 19 Jun 91

[Text] Jaime Perez, the secretary general of the Communist Party of Uruguay, has expressed in Havana his confidence that today more than ever, Cuba is not alone. In referring to the solidarity shown towards our country in the recently concluded meeting of Latin American political parties and movements held in Mexico, Perez, who is also a Uruguayan senator, stated the following.

[Begin Perez recording] We all are aware that the fate of the continent is staked on Cuba. This is not a trite phrase. We are fully aware that the hardest part of the continent's entire struggle has fallen to the Cuban people. U.S. imperialism, which has been feeling tremendously victorious, which is drunk on its successes, finds it unbearable to have an island like Cuba maintaining its dignity 90 miles from the United States. Latin America is aware of this, all of Latin America, and I at least try ....[rephrases] I think that China, which I visited, is aware of this, and I think there are many Soviets who are aware of this. I think that the best of progressive humanity is aware of this. [end recording]

In his talk with Cuban and foreign reporters, Jaime Perez also transmitted his opinions following the visit he made to China and the USSR. About China, the secretary general of the Communist Party of Uruguay said he felt optimistic about the reform process undertaken in 1976. In contrast, Perez expressed his sadness about the political, economic, and social situation the first socialist country in the world is experiencing.

PRC Health Minister Ends Visit, Comments

PA1906160791 Havana Radio Havana Cuba in Spanish 0000 GMT 16 Jun 91

[Susana del Salvo report on news conference by PRC Public Health Minister Minzhang Chen with unidentified reporters at the end of his visit; recorded passages in Chinese with simultaneous translation into Spanish]

[Text] PRC Public Health Minister Minzhang Chen ended his visit to Cuba on 15 June. At a news conference, Chen commented on the Cuban health system describing it as excellent at all levels, from the bottom to the top. He said that he was very impressed with the family doctor program which considerably reduces the health budget in general through a program of preventive medicine. Here is what he said:

[Begin Chen recording] The family doctor program makes it possible to transfer the medical [word indistinct] to the grass-roots level. I believe that the family doctor plan is a very good program and that it is a determining factor in reducing the health budget. There are indications that health objectives for the year 2000 have been achieved. The government and the party have implemented a very effective health policy. In that regard, I believe that there are many areas of cooperation. [end recording]

Chen said that Cuba has met the health objectives for the year 2000 set by the WHO, and that the medical care provided by Cuban authorities is excellent. He added that the use of modern medical technology in Cuba is very good.

[Begin Chen recording] The use of high technology to improve the levels of medical care is very important. During my visit, I have had the opportunity to see that Cuba has made great efforts in that regard. I saw that great progress has been made in many fields. I believe that this will be very important in the future, both in the fields of preventative medicine and general medical care. We are very interested in increasing our cooperation in this area. [end recording]

Chen stressed the importance of his visit to Cuba, and noted that specialists will be sent to our country to sign various agreements.

When we asked him to describe his visit to Cuba in his own words, he said that it had been successful, fruitful, and very positive for his country.

DPRK Expands Construction Materials Cooperation

FL1906223091 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1932 GMT 19 Jun 91

[Text] Cuba and the DPRK will expand their cooperation on the construction materials industry. Cuban experts have been in contact with Pyongyang seeking to expand construction materials cooperation between Cuba and the DPRK; specifically, in the construction of a cement factory. The experts, on their way back to Havana, held initial talks with local authorities and became familiar with technological requirements in preparation for a possible agreement between the two countries.

Engineer Jose Luis Morales, who headed the delegation of the Ministry of Construction Materials Industry, said that the dry-process cement factory might be located on Santiago de Cuba City. The factory, which could have an annual capacity of 300,000 tons, will function as an on-line annex to Jose Merceron Cement Factory.

Panel Participants Discuss Foreign Trade

FL1906124591 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 2330 GMT 15 Jun 91

[Panel discussion hosted by Lazaro Barredo with economic "specialists" Manuel Estefania and Alfredo Han Maso fron the "In Our Voice" segment of the "Exclusivo" Program in Havana—live]

[Text] [Barredo] Hello, my friends. This is Lazaro Barredo with "In Our Voice." We greet you. Today, we have changed our panel. We are being visited by two well-known specialists, Comrade Manuel Estefania, specialist in foreign trade, and Doctoral Candidate Alfredo Han Maso. As I explained last Saturday, until now we have been considering the difficulties in our foreign trade, the results, from the economic point of view, that this external situation has on our national life, our daily life. But, as I said, as we finished the last program, I do not believe that our country is a defenseless country. It is a country that has potential, has possibilities to come out ahead from this adverse juncture. I know that some people ask how it is possible that our country can resolve now the contradiction, let us call it, of maintaining our system, our concept of the planned economy, when there is a tendency in the world to move to a market economy system. This contradiction, of course, is not contradictory, even if this sounds redundant. That is, I believe that potentially our country has, because of its conceptions, many more possibilities to come out ahead than the market economy without affecting, without damaging its internal situation of planned economy and, also, to maintain, above all, its principles of social justice.

In spite of the problems that we have been analyzing there is no doubt at all that the country has to prepare to establish new bases for commercial exchange. In fact, it is doing that by developing its priorities, tourism, genetic engineering and bio-technology, medical products and medical equipment industry. In addition to this, of course, we will have to work much more with rationality, with quality, a better incidence of productivity, to reduce costs in production. We also potentially have an industrial capacity that has been growing all along. I do not believe, therefore, that our country is defenseless despite this adverse situation. I believe that the fact of the opening of the economy that the revolution has

designed, opening possibilities to create joint enterprises, businesses with joint investments, without compromising national sovereignty, is a test of the willingness of the Cuban Revolution to open new fields, new possibilities, in its levels of export and, therefore, its level of income of freely convertible currency.

Logically, all of this work, all of these priorities, in the current conditions, have to inevitably pass through a complex trial period where the country has to assume the challenge that accompanies this type of foreign commerce, above all, concerning the levels of domestic consumption and concerning certain supplies of raw materials, as we were discussing in the previous programs.

I do not want to extend this introduction further, so I will pass the microphone to you [the panel] to analyze this theme. Han or Estefania, which of you would like to start? Estefania.

[Estefania] Allow me to make some comments on the things you mentioned. I think it is important to point out the prioritized work of our government to develop exports and hard currency income. For example, tourism, efforts toward its development are well known because it is publicized in the press. The efforts to create more capacity to accommodate international tourism is a national priority. A great deal of intense work is being done to increase capacity by building hotels, with our own resources or through joint ventures with entrepreneurs, companies, hotel chains, which contribute to the development of these facilities and allows contact with their vast experience and knowledge of the tourist market.

This is the first important factor to ensure, as has been said, the growth of our hard currency income. Tourism has an advantage: It not only brings in income from the sale of the services themselves, but also activates the country's economy. It pulls along the country's economy in general; for example, the food industry and light industry. These hotels must be supplied, so they can provide good service, and this makes it possible to develop other industries as well, such as transportation and agriculture. So we think the development tourism has been undergoing in our country is very advantageous.

In addition, they are using areas that up to now had not been used, such as the beaches on the northern coast of Camaguey and Ciego de Avila, and the southern part of the country. These are places that until now we had not been able to use for any other economic activity. Now they are going to be used effectively for tourism. Likewise, in Varadero, in the area that was not being used in Varadero, towards the eastern end of the penninsula, a new hotel, with more capacity, is being built. This will make it possible to use space that was not being used before to benefit the country's economy. This also gives us education and training for personnel to learn these activities; therefore, it benefits the country in general.

Another aspect being worked on very intensively is everything to do with scientific research. There is a group of scientific research centers that are being used to find solutions to our country's health problems. Health has always been a priority. Right now new centers are being developed, like the genetics center and the biotechnology and genetics center, which has been developing a number of products, not only for use in Cuba but also for export. There is the meningitis B vaccine. This has been an exclusive achievement by Cuba. There is no other like it. We have been able to export it. It has been sold to Brazil, mostly. It has allowed us to increase our trade with that country. In addition, it is in demand by other countries which suffer from that disease, and this way they can solve their problems.

[Barredo] There are figures, Estefania; for example, in 1958 there were 11 small research centers in the country, and they did not have more than 150 researchers. They were also grouped according to individual subjects, especially since there were people who without state support, people who were doing research in spite of not having state support. I understand—I do not know if there are some figures about this—that now there are about 200 research centers where several tens of thousands of scientists and workers are working. So development in the field of research has been prioritized. I wanted to note these points. Han?

[Han] This is one of the important factors in a situation like this. There are 200 entities for scientific research in Cuba. This includes more than 100 units for research and development. You know that the research and development units are the ones responsible for applying the achievements of research to production. In the last three or four years, 26 areas of research and development have been created, and it is planned to (?link together) many of them. This is very important. There are 42,000 workers working at these 200 centers. Of these, there are 30,000 working specifically in science and technology; 71 percent are working in that, 26 percent in education, and 1 percent in other things. [figures as heard] So this is an important element.

Among their achievements are not only the vaccines, biological products, interferon, genetic engineering in general—this has been talked about quite a bit, right?—monoclonal antibodies, but there are many things; for example, work on crops. I do not know if you know that there are eight varieties of sugarcane. These are already 29 percent of the area under cultivation, and have been developed by these research centers. They are growing tissues in the case of sugarcane, bananas, potatoes, pineapples, rice, vegetables. In the case of rice, 90 percent of the rice varieties have been developed by Cuban scientists. This is important. I think that this is not just potential. It is a concrete fact that is already materializing, and this is obviously a factor, an important factor.

[Barredo] Well, let us continue, Estefania. He has said quite a bit....

[Estefania, interrupting] But I think it is very important. One of the product lines that the country has the greatest potential to develop is biotechnology. In addition, there is not only the number of centers and number of researchers but the quality of these centers and the quality of these researchers. When one visits these centers accompanied by foreign officials—whom we often take there so they can see how developed Cuba is and also so they will see what Cuba is producing and promoting—they are very impressed.

When one has already been there several times ....[rephrases] It has a great impact the first time, but then one gets used to it, but any high-ranking official who visits Cuba and is taken to one of these centers is very impressed with the explanations provided by ....[changes thought] People with a high level of technical and scientific development come, people who know about this kind of thing, and they exchange opinions not only with the heads of the centers, the directors of the centers, but also with the specialists, the researchers, and they are very impressed with the quality of the training and the youth of these researchers. This is what assures us of accelerated development in an activity as important as this. Also, all this research is applied to the economy, agriculture, fishing, and livestock raising. It can be applied to all the different areas of our economy.

Another aspect that is being developed in Cuba for export is the steel industry. Right now, we are building a new industrial steel plant in Las Tunas, where we will make sheets of industrial steel. This is an exportable product which uses our own nickel as the raw material. This is another product for export. In traditional activities such as fishing, we have kept up a good level of catches and exports in recent years, and we are developing shrimp farming, artificial shrimp farming. Shrimp is also in great demand in the world, and we can do this using coastal areas. The most inhospitable places on those coasts can be used for this shrimp-farming. We have that possibility here.

Now, regarding what you mentioned, the international situation, what are we putting the greatest emphasis on now? Something we were doing before but are now doing with more priority—unconventional trade operations, unconventional foreign trade operations. Such as? Barter operations. Barter is a kind of compensation. Since there are other countries in Latin America that have financial problems like the ones Cuba may have, as well as countries like Africa and other places, countried that do not have money in hard currency but do have products of interest to Cuba and are interested in Cuban products, then (?one can have an exchange), product for product, which allows us to increase our exports and also allows us to receive products we need very much without having to spend hard currency.

What other kinds of operations are we doing? Investments, small investments in our traditional production centers, which need additional technology to increase their exports. An example of this case is the paper industry. In the paper industry, we have paper factories, some old and some modern, like the one in Jatibonico, the Jatibonico Paper Complex, whose production can be increased with small investments. Above all, they can produce higher quality paper. These investments can be made in joint ventures with some foreign companies, and payment for this cooperation is made by sending goods from that same industry.

This can also solve problems that had appeared in previous programs because of the difficulties in receiving raw materials from Eastern European countries. We have plants that are not working at full capacity right now; they are working at 60 or 70 percent capacity. How can we increase production at these plants? By carrying out operations through which we import or receive the raw materials through some companies that are interested in our final products, and we pay them with the finished products. This allows us to pay for the raw materials we received with some of these finished products, and to sell the surplus for hard currency.

Really, this may seem difficult, but there is great interest. We have seen great interest from the traditional partners of Cuban enterprises, and they want to carry out this kind of operation. In the textile industry, for example, an agreement has recently been signed to develop the Santa Clara, Villa Clara, textile factory. This is a large plant that can produce up 60 million meters of fabric, but what it lacks is some raw materials. An agreement has been signed to receive raw materials to produce, for example, 10 million meters of fabric. This can be paid off with 5 million, and there are 5 million left which can go to domestic consumption or to increase exports.

There are other industries, like the nickel industry, where, as you know, there were investments that had almost been completed for the Ernesto Che Guevara Plant. There is another plant that is under construction. These will ensure us an increase in products that are in high demand and get a good price on the international market. In the case of citrus, Cuba developed its citrus program with very close ties to the cooperation that existed before with the Eastern European countries and the USSR, basically.

We are continuing to supply the USSR with fresh fruit as well as manufactured products. With other countries, like the GDR, which no longer exists, there is a surplus of fruit that used to be exported to the GDR. What are we doing? In cooperation with other companies [words indistinct] receiving phytosanitary products, equipment for processing, some chemical products for processing these products, and in turn they buy the fresh fruit from us.

What is important, however, is to create new capacity for the industrial processing of citrus fruit. The volume to be transported is very high, and it is necessary to process the citrus fruit. Therefore, we not only need factories for processing but also freezer capacity. We need to create capacity in the ports (?for loading), since transporting these specialized products is very costly, very expensive.

So we need to create the ideal conditions for transporting them by land, storing them at the ports, and loading them quickly on ships in order to utilize to the maximum ....[changes thought] One thing we are working on intensively is the quality of these products. This is something we must see to, basically at this stage in which there are problems with some raw materials. The quality of our products must not drop. I think we are working on this very intensively. We have succeeded in maintaining a good level of competitive quality, not only with the products themselves, but the containers, the packaging, the products' condition. What else?

[Barredo] You were talking about something there—and it seems worthwhile to me to make a parenthesis here—about the problem of the capacities we have developed here in the country, because sometimes the tendentious campaigns of the enemies of the revolution assert that Cuba has developed in public health, education, and sports, but has lagged behind in the economic sphere, shall we say. I understand that according to the indicators for the "lost decade" in Latin America, Cuba was able to double its industrial capacity in the eighties. Cuba has increased by several times a group of important product lines that today represent available capacity that the country has. One of the problems you mentioned, for example, was textiles. The Celia Sanchez or the Santa Clara factory alone—the Celia Sanchez is in Santiago—the Santa Clara factory can produce 60 million [meters of fabric] ....

[Estefania] The Santiago factory can produce 80 million.

[Barredo] Eighty million. However, all the small factories there were in Cuba in 1958 with textile production capacity produced only 40 million square meters.

[Estefania] [Words indistinct] which was built after the triumph of the revolution.

[Barredo] Yes, that is what I am saying. Today—I had looked up the figures—I think textile production capacity has increased eight times, seven times. For example, I am going to mention only one example. I think Han had some points about this. It would be worth mentioning some figures that could give an idea of the economic potential we have if we can manage to use the installed capacity the country has intelligently.

[Han] Yes, I think that, well, talking only about important things, large things, final products ....[rephrases] We are not going to talk about infrastructure, because then we would have to talk about the increase in the capacity to generate energy in the country, the roads, the dams—we have more than 7 million ....

[Barredo, interrupting] For example, in infrastructure growth, the generation of electricity is seven times greater that the volume in 1958. Reservoirs: in 1958 Cuba had 29 million cubic meters of water in reservoirs. Today that capacity exceeds 8 billion cubic meters. That is 400 times more than almost all the water in reservoirs in 1958. [figures as heard] Roads: more than 20,000 km of roads and highways in these ....

[Han, interrupting] Add the airports, warehouses, cold-storage plants, and processing plants. This is all infrastructure. It does not need to be built; it has already been done. In fact, it is already done. Let us not talk about this, or about ....

[Barredo, interrupting] Nor the mental capital.

[Han] Well, talking about training, we have 380,000 university graduates working; 270,000 are studying. This means that during the first 25 years of the next century, there will be more than 500,000 university graduates working at the same time. This is more than one for every 10 workers. These are impressive things. This does not mean that we always use them well. We cannot always say that they have had an impact on our work results, but they are there. They are working. We have all that.

For example, we have 140,000 hectares planted in citrus. These are some of the largest plantations, I think. Cuba is in fourth place as exporters of fresh fruit and in second place as exporters of grapefruit. Well, we have three citrus processing complexes. In electronics, well, we have a factory making monitors, the (?ENCO) here in Havana, 200,000 units. The factory for keyboards, there is a factory making keyboards, the [name indistinct], 150,000 units. They have equipment from Italy, Germany, and Japan. In microcomputers, [words indistinct] factory in Cotorro which has 28,000 square meters, a factory with Japanese and Italian equipment or technology. Electronic components, the Pinar del Rio factory, which I think is generally very well known. There we can produce [word indistinct] monocrystalline wafers, rectifiers. In short, it is a giant plant.

There is the television factory in San Antonio de las Vegas, the parabolic antenna factory in Villa Clara, and the expansion of our nickel production capacity, as Estefania was saying. There is the Cienfuegos oil refinery, for 3 million tons of crude, linked to the supertanker base, which is very important because this supertanker base is able to receive ships of up to 150,000 tons deadweight, with all the facilities for the land base with 150,000 cubic meters of storage capacity, linked with the refinery by an oil pipeline 187 km long. There is the [word indistinct] Uruguay paper factory, with a 60,000 ton capacity. There is the Santa Cruz cardboard and pasteboard factory, which is a giant plant with a 50,000 ton capacity.

You have already talked about textiles. There are two furniture factories in Guantanamo using Spanish technology. They are very modern. In talking about furniture factories in Latin America, you have to mention those two factories. I think they are the most ....[changes thought] Antillana Steel now produces 700,000 tons of bars and rods. Diesel Motors makes towtrucks. In metalworking, you have to talk about the Villa Clara metalworking factory. It is an impressive thing. There are the Holguin complexes.

[Estefania] They can make almost an entire sugar mill. All the metal parts of the sugar mills are made in Cuba.

[Barredo] I wanted you to mention this; there is a very interesting figure. In 1956 the U.S. Commerce Department made an investigation into Cuban industry. The results of this investigation say that 94.2 percent of Cuban factories had from 5 to 100 employees. So they were virtually little workshops. There were only 200 engineers working in all these factories. The Villa Clara metalworking plant alone today has more than 350 engineers, graduates from higher education, working in the industrial part. So these are some points that can illustrate the fallacy of those sublime theories the enemies of the revolution use to ....

[Han, interrupting] Nuevitas and Cienfuegos are industrial cities.

[Estefania] Cement—you have not already talked about the materials industry?

[Han] No, no, I had not mentioned that yet.

[Estefania] The construction materials industry is one of the country's branches of industry that has been developing fantastically. The cement factories—there were three cement factories here, in Mariel, Artemisa, and Santiago de Cuba. However, three more have been built.

[Han] With a capacity of 5 million. [unit not specified]

[Estefania] We have a capacity of 5 million.

[Barredo] Well, they are telling me that we have run out of time. I propose to you that we do another program. I think there are interesting things that we could explain to the public so that they will see that in fact we do not have ...[rephrases] we are not backwards. We have enormous potential, which we have to improve, as Comrade Han was saying. We have to improve how the work is organized. I think this is the rectification the revolution has undertaken. I think we can talk about some things that have to do with this potential in order to come out of these adverse circumstances. So, friends, I hope that this program has satisfied you, and we will be back next Saturday on "In Our Voice."

Inter-Caribbean Affairs

OECS Agenda Features Founding of Common Market

FL2006020691 Bridgetown CANA in English 2200 GMT 19 Jun 91

[Text] St. George's, Grenada, June 19, CANA—Four Prime Ministers and two chief ministers were expected at Wednesday evening's opening session here of the 10th summit of the seven-member Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS).

Officials say Prime Ministers John Compton of St. Lucia, Eugenia Charles of Dominica, Dr. Kennedy Simmonds of St. Kitts and Nevis, and Chief Ministers John Osborne of Montserrat and Lavity Stoutt of the British Virgin Islands are in Grenada for the meeting.

St. Vincent and the Grenadines Prime Minister James Mitchell is in London on 10 days special leave, and his Antiguan counterpart Vere Bird, Sr. is not attending.

Dr. Rodney Williams will head the Antiguan delegation while Tourism Minister Herbert Young is leading the St. Vincent and the Grenadines delegation at the two-day meeting. The opening ceremony was to be addressed by outgoing chairperson, Dominica's Prime Minister Charles and the new chairman of the body, Grenada's Prime Minister Nicholas Brathwaite.

One of the major agenda items at the meeting is expected to be the establishment of a common market among the OECS countries, a proposal submitted by the economic affairs secretariat during a meeting on Monday. The OECS secretariat has submitted a list of names of officials who are to receive long-service honours for their service with the organisation.

Antigua and Barbuda

Parliament Passes Bill To Eliminate Corruption

FL1906130691 Bonaire Trans World Radio in English 1130 GMT 19 Jun 91

[Text] The Parliament of Antigua and Barbuda has approved a bill to eliminate corruption in society as well as in the government. It follows last year's Antiguan arms scandal in which Israeli weapons passing through Antigua wound up in the hands of Colombian drug traffickers. Opponents of the government say the new bill does not go far enough.

Haiti

Operation Storm Wind Begins, Dismissals Demanded

FL1906232391 Port-au-Prince Radio Nationale in Creole 1300 GMT 18 Jun 91

[Excerpts] Let us now go to Jean-Auguste Mesyeux's Operation Storm Wind that begun, as you know, on 17 June in Port-au-Prince. At around 1000, a group of demonstrators took to the streets with sticks, ropes, and placards bearing slurs against the Preval government and his team. Eddy Volel, leader of the Christian Democratic Assembly [RDC]), came to support the operation, and requested the dismissal of the country's president, Reverend Father Jean-Bertrand Aristide, the prime minister, and the ministerial cabinet. The people themselves will decide who will lead the country, he said.

After their visit to the Social Affairs Ministry, the demonstrators protested outside the Legislative Palace, but were unable to enter the building because of security agents posted at the doors. Mesyeux himself, who is leading this movement, acknowledges this as a defeat for Operation Storm Wind because, according to him, the

people's organizations did not succeed in entering these public administration offices where they intended to conduct a witch hunt, removing macoutes. He believes the country's progress will be blocked if the government does not make necessary changes within the state machinery. The demonstration at the National Palace ended without victims. Let us listen to the report of Romane Petit who was there.

[Begin Petit recording] [passage omitted] The demonstrators did not fail to hurl bitter words at the government and its employees. They even threatened the prime minister, agronomist Rene Preval, with pere lebrun [necklacing with burning tires] if he did not withdraw from power. [passage omitted]

According to some observers, as a movement that has been preparing for almost a month, Operation Storm Wind was not the success everyone expected. It is true that there were many people, but they were scattered, not unified. Many people passed other groups slipping through the demonstration who were chanting slogans or making claims not in conformity with the Jean-Auguste Mesyeux movement. There was a contrary wind. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Information Minister Demands Sincere Dialogue

FL2006011091 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1100 GMT 19 Jun 91

[Report on interview with Information Minister Marie-Laurence Jocelyn Lassegue by Frankel Valentin at the parliament in Port-au- Prince on 18 June—recorded]

[Excerpts] [Begin recording] [Lassegue] [passage omitted] We assume our responsibilities. We have come to the Senate this morning to ask the senators to withdraw the law on the press.

[Valentin] Will you also create a bill to replace this law? If so, when will you have the opportunity to present it to the Chamber?

[Lassegue] You have just addressed an important problem, Frankel, because as you know, in a meeting we had with the press, the journalists in general said: The penal code is enough; the Constitution is enough; we do not need a law on the press. [passage omitted]

[Announcer] Mrs. Lassegue reaffirmed the government's desire to respect the freedom of expression as defined by the 29 March 1987 Constitution. Asked about the uprisings of various sectors demanding the dismissal of the government, especially the demonstrations this week, the minister replied that if the entire country requests the departure of the ministerial cabinet, the government is willing to comply. Mrs. Lassegue pointed out that the government cannot change everything within four months. [passage omitted]

The problem of the high cost of living has absorbed the attention of the executive, according to the information minister, who stated: The government is listening to what the people are saying. [passage omitted]

Concerning Jean Auguste Mesyeux's Operation Storm Wind, Mrs. Lassegue recommended that frank, sincere dialogue be conducted. [end recording]

New Ministers Discuss Priorities With Press

FL2006013991 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1100 GMT 19 Jun 91

[Excerpts] Haitian head of state, Father Jean-Bertrand Aristide, and head of government, agronomist Rene Preval, received the two new ministers, Social Affairs Minister Myrtho Celestin and Commerce Minister Jean-Francois Chamblain, on 18 June at the National Palace to discuss their work and how these two ministers will tackle the problems awaiting them at the ministries.

After the meeting, answering journalists about the priorities of his ministry, Minister Chamblain said he would take time to analyze the files of the Commerce Ministry, the problems of the ministry, and then establish solutions on a scientific basis. [passage omitted]

The Social Affairs minister explained that she will meet with the concerned people to study the financial possibilities that are at the ministry's disposal. She stated that she is already ready to tackle the unemployment problem. [passage omitted]

Minister To Greet Repatriated Sugarcane Workers

FL2006003191 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1600 GMT 18 Jun 91

[Excerpt] Twenty-eight Haitian adolescents who were illegally employed in the Dominican Republic sugarcane fields will be repatriated, starting today. These young compatriots will be received by Haitian authorities at the border in Malepasse under the scrutiny of international organizations and journalists. The Minister of Foreign Affairs Mrs. Fabien Jean-Louis traveled to the site to await their arrival.

It will be the first Haitian contingent deported from the Dominican Republic since publication of President Balaguer's decree announcing that all those under 16 or over 60 working in the Bateyes, would be repatriated. A report by Metropole correspondent Jean-Michel Caroy follows.

[Begin Caroy recording] The first group of 29 Haitian minors scheduled for repatriation to Haiti have not yet left Santo Domingo, according to contacts established with Haitian authorities. Several official sources report that the minors would be returned by ground transportation on 20 June. The children are gathered in the National Institute of Agricultural and Union Training in Santo Domingo under the protection of the Haitian Workers Sociocultural Movement. People here point out that this is not the first time a group of Haitian children,

illegally recruited to cut sugarcane, have been repatriated. The Episcopal Church recently organized several operations aimed at having these children returned.

The news came from President Balaguer who last week published a plan for the repatriation of illegal Haitians, in answer to accusations raised against the Dominican Republic abroad. Decree 233-91 provides for repatriation of all persons under 16 and over 60. While a segment of the press continues to call for massive deportation of immigrants in irregular situations, other commentators point out that Decree 233-91 is difficult to apply because the majority of Haitians living in the Bateyes do not have identification papers.

The new measures raise the issue of Haitian-Dominican children who are the offspring of Haitians living on the other side of the border, and who, according to both the Haitian and Dominican Constitutions, could claim dual nationalities, but in reality, possess neither. This is a dramatic problem which both governments must finally address. [end recording]. [passage omitted]

Dominican Republic

Nationwide Strike Called For 3, 4 Jul

FL1906202891 Santo Domingo Cadena de Noticias in Spanish 0930 GMT 19 Jun 91

[Excerpts] The National Union of Technical and Professional Organizations, a group that includes popular, labor, student, and peasant movements, has voiced its support for the nationwide strike scheduled for 3 and 4 July. Rafael Bonilla, spokesperson for the group, made this information available to us.

Bonilla explained that his organization opposed the most recent national strike, scheduled for 19 and 20 June, because the strike made demands that were political in nature. Now, he says, their support can strengthen the strike movement. [passage omitted]

The spokesperson of the popular movement urged all the other popular and union groups to vigorously support this lastest strike call. [passage omitted].

El Salvador

Rebels Deny FMLN Rift, Arms From Cuba

PA1906161891 San Salvador DIARIO LATINO in Spanish 17 Jun 91 p 7

[Text] Guerrilla Commanders Jorge Melendez alias "Jonas," "Raul Hercules," and "Eleno Castro" traveled on 16 June to Queretaro, Mexico, to join the dialogue commissions of the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front [FMLN] and the government, which began a series of meetings yesterday.

The departure of the rebel commanders, which had been scheduled for 14 June, was delayed due to undisclosed problems.

Commander "Jonas" reportedly left the area of Perquin, Morazan Department, at 1000 on 16 June. He was accompanied by Colombian Ambassador Jose Humberto Gomez, Mexican Ambassador Emilio Lopez Bassols, and Christian Boetili, ONUSAL [UN Observers for El Salvador] political affairs director.

The other two guerrilla commanders reportedly left areas under rebel control, also accompanied by diplomatic personnel.

Yesterday, the rebel leaders and the Army delegates began discussing the reduction and purge of the Armed Forces in addition to other key issues pertaining to a cease-fire.

Although the duration of the talks has not been established, sources at the peace negotiations stated that the talks will be long and intensive.

During Commander Jonas' departure, he and the diplomats who accompanied him refused to give statements to the press.

Meanwhile, Commander Gustavo Amaya, one of the top FMLN commanders in Perquin, Morazan Department, stated that there are no rifts within the ranks of the FMLN, as was reported last week by Army officers.

In addition, Commander Amaya denied the charges of top military officers, who claim that SA-16 missiles are being sent to the rebels from Cuba. He explained that the FMLN can purchase weapons anywhere, adding that they usually get weapons on the black market.

Army for Democracy Reaffirms Charges of Torture

PA1906152991 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0000 GMT 18 Jun 91

[Communique issued by the Joint Command of the National Army for Democracy of the Modesto Ramirez Central Front in the Guazapa Hill sector on 17 June]

[Text] Concerning the murder of Lieutenant Andres by the Atlacatl Battalion after he was captured and wounded on 15 May 1991, we want to notify our people, the press, the national and international human rights organization, and particularly ONUSAL [UN Observers for El Salvador] of the following:

1. The events that took place on the day of the murder and which were made public in due time by the National Army for Democracy [END] disclose the murderous, inhumane, and [word indistinct] nature that does not respect the human rights of the prisoners of war captured by the murderous battalions that are erroneously called elite troops, particularly in the case of the Atlacatl Battalion. These events were witnessed by the residents of [word indistinct] Canton, in Suchitoto Jurisdiction.

2. On 12 June, a forensic doctor examined the body of Lt. Andres in the presence of representatives of the Legal Medicine Institute, of the judicial branch, the Legal Assistance Office of the Archbishop, and the nongovernmental Human Rights Commission. It was determined the body had 16 wounds of various types and origin and the face had been totally destroyed by an explosion. These results ratify that after he was tortured, Lt. Andres was murdered and, to eliminate any evidence of the torture, a grenade was thrown at his body.

3. The Armed Forces General Staff and the government knew before hand of the date the body was to be exhumed. Therefore, the Armed Forces did not allow the national and international press to enter the Guazapa Hill area. This confirms that the Army and government were afraid that evidence of the torture and murder of Lt. Andres would be made public. However, the murderous nature of the Armed Forces cannot be hidden.

4. At the same time, we denounce the accomplice-like attitude of the officials of the Legal Medicine Institute, Dr. Roberto Mas Ferrer, and particularly the director, Dr. (Juan Mateo York) who, although they verified the evidence of the torture, stated that Lt. Andres died as a result of the injuries sustained in combat and not as a result of torture. These false statements have been published in some of the well-known disinformation media, such as reactionary DIARIO DE HOY which said on 11 June that the END leadership in Guazapa had allegedly opposed that the body be transferred to San Salvador for an autopsy at the Legal Medicine Institute. On the contrary, the END is most interested in a thorough investigation of the case, and we requested that the body be taken to San Salvador, but our petition was denied.

5. We could not expect that institutions belonging to the inefficient judiciary branch to certify and [word indistinct] our charges in such a manner. The alleged justice is at the mercy of the lies and impunity of the Armed Forces that murdered the six Jesuit priests and their two maids.

6. In light of the abovementioned, the END and the Joint Command of Guazapa Hill reiterate their accusation that Lt. Andres was wounded when he was captured, then tortured, and later murdered by individuals of the Atlacatl Battalion, clearly violating the Geneva Agreements and the second protocol of the same on the

treatment of prisoners of war. The courage of the fighters of the END will not be defeated even with the worst forms of torture and murder. The cowardly actions of the murderous Armed Forces only leaves them one option in history: They must disappear. [Signed] The Joint Command of the Modesto Ramirez Central Front, Guazapa Hill sector on 17 June.

Anticommunists Threaten International Agencies

PA1906140891 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSKL in Spanish 1226 GMT 19 Jun 91

[Text] On 18 June, the Salvadoran Anticommunist Front, a clandestine right-wing organization, threatened to mercilessly attack the relatives of rebel leaders if the guerrillas launch a new military offensive. In a communique released in San Salvador, the organization announced an offensive against a Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front's [FMLN] large-scale military operation. The note says that the Front reserves the right to take merciless actions against the relatives of terrorist commanders and front organizations operating in El Salvador. The communique is not dated but there is a line at the bottom saying: "1991. The year of truth."

The guerrillas threatened to respond militarily against what they described as attempts at backing down by the Army and businessmen in the negotiations being held between government and FMLN delegates in Mexico under UN mediation. In these talks, the delegates discuss the purging of the Armed Forces, a preliminary step toward the signing of a cease-fire to end the 11-year war that has resulted in the deaths of more than 60,000 people. The Front threatened to attack any foreigners or nationals who work for international organizations, such as the United Nations.

It has been reported that the United Nations will soon install ONUSAL [United Nations Observers for El Salvador], a verification commission for human rights in El Salvador. President Alfredo Cristiani has said that he will penalize all organizations that violate the law. He also said that his government will make it easier for ONUSAL to carry out its work.

Guatemala

Incident Involving Arzu, U.S. Envoy Downplayed

PA1906150291 Guatemala City PRENSA LIBRE in Spanish 17 Jun 91 p 6

[Text] Although Vice President Gustavo Espina Salguero described the incident as "unimportant," reporters saw Foreign Minister Alvaro Arzu Irigoyen loudly rebuking U.S. Ambassador Thomas Strook in the presence of several people. This incident occurred shortly before the creation of the National Peace Fund [Fondo Nacional Para la Paz—Fonapaz] was announced. The television cameramen videotaped the diplomat and the foreign minister while they were engaged in a heated argument.

The vice president noted that the incident was probably caused by the stance adopted by Foreign Minister Arzu, who has a strong and energetic temperament, but declined to elaborate on the problem. This situation, stated Espina Salguero, is really unimportant and cannot be regarded as friction between Guatemala and the United States.

In fact, we respect Ambassador Strook and could not believe this is a diplomatic incident, but rather an unimportant incident, because our relations with the United States are positive, Espina Salguero affirmed.

Vice President Dismisses Coup Warning

PA1906144991 Guatemala City PRENSA LIBRE in Spanish 17 Jun 91 p2

[Text] Not even by dreaming could one think of a coup, since the Army is decidedly supporting the government elected by the people, Vice President Gustavo Espina Salguero said yesterday. The vice president was commenting on remarks made by a Guatemalan Christian Democracy [DCG] leader. DCG Organization Secretary Demetrio Moliviatis stated during a news conference that the unity government is completely failing and that the discredit caused by some sectors against institutional organizations is creating the conditions for a coup.

The international community, the vice president remarked, has become the main guardian of the newly installed democracies in Latin America. At the recent OAS Assembly, the member countries reiterated their support for governments elected by the people and agreed to take steps against groups that promote abrupt changes in hopes of imposing the rule of force.

He said that at this time nobody is thinking of coups, especially when the president is a man like Jorge Serrano Elias, who is seeking the path toward a permanent dialogue and the possibility of attaining peace; something the people have desired for many years.

For that reason, those who are considering a destabilizing movement are mistaken, because they would be rejected by the people and would be condemned by the international community. I respect Moliviatis' remarks, but I do not agree with them, the vice president concluded.

Five Political Parties Reject Violence

PA2006021091 Guatemala City SIGLO VEINTIUNO in Spanish 17 Jun 91 p 11

[Paid advertisement by the Guatemalan Christian Democracy Party, Solidarity Action Movement, National Vanguard Party, Democratic Socialist Party, and Union of National Center, issued in Guatemala City and dated June 1991: "Statement for Peace and Rejection of Violence"]

[Text] The political parties writing this document wish to address the Guatemalan people in light of the growing climate of violence and anguish that various sectors in the community are facing.

The political process is a reciprocal interaction between those who govern and those who are governed. This process is manifested through the political parties, whose role as formal institutions is to channel organized public opinion.

Our obligations as political parties lead us to speak up at these difficult times, and to assume our historic responsibility within the constitutional framework, always in search of a dialogue or national agreement.

We believe that peace can no longer be put off in the national territory. To continue the struggles among brothers is irrational, unfair, and suicidal. Without peace there is no liberty, no possibility for the development and full exercise of human rights.

As was established with our participation in the historic El Escorial Agreement, we reiterate our decided support for the peace process. This peace process is being held through a dialogue between the Guatemalan Government delegation and members of the Guatemalan National Revolutionary Unity (URNG), with the mediation of the National Reconciliation Commission (CNR).

Meanwhile, we are concerned about and reject the attempts being made by several groups within the nation and abroad to hamper the peace efforts, as they prefer to continue polarizing the Guatemalan people and undermining state institutions.

Likewise, we express our deep concern and indignation over the violation of human rights in Guatemala, as well as over the harassment, persecution, and anonymous executions of labor leaders, professionals, and politicians. These actions are detrimental to the democratic stabilization process that the Guatemalan people have paid dearly for and continue paying for.

We reiterate our firm support for the democratic system established in our Constitution and in the state institutions. We condemn activities by radical groups that seek to hinder efforts aimed at finding peace and that put off the Guatemalans' reconciliation. We exhort the Government of the Republic to use its authority and undertake greater efforts to neutralize these groups' activities.

It is a matter of concern to us that four out of five Guatemalans live in a state of underemployment or in poverty, and that three of these live in extreme poverty. The democratic system's stability is endangered when large sectors of the community live in misery and abandonment, with no realistic possibility of ever improving their living conditions.

This is why we are willing and committed to achieve a national agreement by joint efforts, through dialogue, to accomplish sustained development and growth in the economic and social sectors. To arrive at this, an exhaustive analysis must be made of the national reality, an assessment must be made of the negative effects of the crisis, immediate economic and social stabilization measures must be set out, and the basis for economic and social development must be established. Urgent measures must be taken in the following fields: prices, salaries, employment, investment, and fiscal modernization and public administration with regard to social policies and rural problems. These are priority issues.

The relations among the state powers should be conducted for the well-being of national interests, within a framework of dignity, mutual respect, and responsibility.

We are all part of political organizations that profess diverse ideologies, pragmatic approaches, and criteria on the way to govern the nation. Nevertheless, there are ideals and objectives common to all of us, such as the right to peace, to liberty, and to social justice for all Guatemalans.

The above has moved us to draw up this document which we hope will be shared with all the community, so that together we can advance toward the consolidation of democracy and the construction of peace.

Guatelama City, June 1991
Guatemalan Christian Democracy Party (PDCG)
Catalina Sobernanis Reyes, assistant secretary general
Vinicio Cerezo Arevalo, Political Council president;
Solidarity Action Movement (MAS)
Miguel Angel Montepeque, assistant secretary general
Antulio Castillo Barajas, member of the National Executive Committee;
National Vanguard Party (PAN)
Luis Flores Asturias, secretary general
Rodolfo Mendoza, member of the Executive Committee, communications secretary;
Democratic Socialist Party (PSD)
Mario Solorzano Martinez, secretary general
Mario Lujan Munoz, assistant secretary general;
Union of National Center (UCN)
Jorge Carpio Nicolle, secretary general
Jorge Arenas Menes, assistant secretary general

Nicaragua

Proposed Repeal of Laws 85, 86 Sparks Violence

Government Minister Comments

PA2006054391 Managua Radio Nicaragua Network in Spanish 2030 GMT 19 Jun 91

[Statement by Government Minister Carlos Hurtado to the national and international press in Managua on 19 June—recorded]

[Excerpts] Last night in Managua, explosive devices were placed at the residence of Independent Liberal Party President Wilfredo Navarro, at the residence of a

member of the National Democratic Confidence Party, and at the residence or very near the residence of Jose Castillo, director of Radio Corporacion and president of the National Conservative Party.

In Matagalpa, another bomb was placed at the residence of Deputy Julio Ruiz Quezada.

In Chontales Department in Region Five, explosive devices were placed at the home of Juan Villagra, a private cattle rancher, in Acoyapa at the home of Deputy [name indistinct], at the residence of Santo Tomas Mayor Hilario Vargas, and [words indistinct] some type of action against the residence of Juigalpa Mayor [name indistinct]. [passage omitted]

In addition, as you already know, yesterday men who were reportedly armed occupied Radio Corporacion; two sections, the main directorate and the records section, of the Managua Municipal Office; and the municipal offices in Masaya, Granada, Nindiri, and Nandaime.

We must inform you that today the municipal offices in Matagalpa and La Voz de Matagalpa, the local radio station in Matagalpa, were occupied. Radio Dario was occupied in Leon yesterday. I understand that Radio San Cristobal in Chinandega was also occupied.

These developments that have shaken the national and international public are obviously the result of a wave and escalation of violence that basically creates a climate of terror. These actions have resulted from misinformation regarding the alleged abrogation of Laws 85 and 86.

All this has happened despite the fact that leaders of the National Assembly, deputies, and members of the executive branch have clearly said that the benefits that thousands of Nicaraguans have received from the previous and current government will be respected. That is the president's position, which has been clearly stated. As deputies and members of the executive branch have said, the government is trying to settle the property problem in Nicaragua and to correct the abuses that occurred during the transition period. It is not the government's intention to go against the people who were benefited, but rather to correct abuses.

The disinformation in regard to the property problem is what has caused the recent incidents that have led to a situation of tension and violence, which is very dangerous. Fortunately, there have been no casualties so far.

It is important to mention that President Chamorro—the executive branch—wants this problem to be discussed within the property commission at the national dialogue, I mean at the National Assembly. In that manner, we will be able to obtain a broader criterion and hear the opinions of people from the various tendencies and currents, in order to find solutions through a process of consultation and national consensus. I understand that the legislators feel the same way. [passage omitted]

Taking into consideration that Radio Corporacion is located in a densely populated area, it was decided to suspend the dislodgement operation and to try to find a solution to the problem through other means, as we are doing right now. We do not want, and must do everything possible to prevent, a confrontation among civilians. We must do everything to prevent possible deaths during a dislodgement operation, especially of innocent people.

On Monday I ordered some preventive measures to protect the lives and property of deputies and political leaders in various parts of the country [words indistinct]. Although we took preventive measures, we cannot foresee everything that will happen. These actions have been adopted thorughout the country and they include labor and political leaders, deputies, and others. Of course they also include the National Assembly, the Presidential Palace, Radio Corporacion's transmitters, Channel Six, and other state facilities. It is a national effort, but, as I said, it is very difficult to foresee all the situations that can occur.

In addition, patrolling has been intensified throughout the country. We have deployed as many units as possible in order to prevent future incidents. As I said before, I have contacted members of the National Directorate of the Sandinist National Liberation Front in an effort to put an end—as soon as possible—to this situation that does not contribute to the country's stability. [passage omitted]

D. Ortega Reads FSLN Communique

PA1906225791 Managua Radio Ya in Spanish 1700 GMT 19 Jun 91

[Communique issued by the National Directorate of the Sandinist National Liberation Front, FSLN, and read by FSLN National Coordinator Daniel Ortega Saavedra in Managua—live]

[Text] Communique from the National Directorate of the FSLN to the Nicaraguan people and the international community:

Yesterday, 18 June, the UNO [National Opposition Union] deputies submitted a bill to the National Assembly plenum calling for the repeal of Laws 85 and 86 and the reform of Decree 11-90, thereby initiating the most serious political and institutional crisis suffered in the country since 25 April 1990.

For the past few months, the FSLN has been warning the people about these plans drafted by the UNO extremists in an effort to disregard the transition protocol and to provoke the destabilization of the country and the government. During the last few days, we have been making all possible efforts to persuade the UNO leaders into changing their irresponsible position for the sake of peace and stability in the country. However, all our efforts were in vain.

In addition, the government made a call to the leaders of the Conservative Party to withdraw the bill. Yet, the

UNO leaders, blinded by their desire to seek revenge, decided to carry out their irritating plans adversely affecting all Nicaraguans.

The rightist leaders and the National Assembly president will be the only ones held responsible before the people and before history for all the repercussions of this serious crisis that they have decided to create today.

We denounce this reactionary initiative because it is nothing more than the first step of a plan, the final objective of which is the destruction of the achievements of peasants, workers, and all popular groups that benefited from the revolution. In addition, they are trying to get rid of the Sandinists because they want to impose a Somozist regime in Nicaragua.

The FSLN and all honest Nicaraguans have the unavoidable obligation to stop these dangerous maneuvers before the revengeful people once again send us into a war, which no one wants and which we are obliged to prevent.

The FSLN deputies have withdrawn from the National Assembly indefinitely because it has become an instrument to sabotage stability, peace, the people's rights, and even the government's own policies.

The FSLN deputies will continue to support the national concerted efforts, and we call on all groups that participate in these efforts to continue seeking a solution to the serious problems that are being debated there. We call on the demobilized members of the National Resistance [as heard] to defend their lands and properties threatened by this bill.

We call on all to join us in the defense of the land and to obtain free land titles on these lands. We invite the demobilized peasants of the national resistance to struggle together with us so that war does not ever return to our fatherland.

We call on all the residents of neighborhoods and settlements to join us, so that we can attain a total unity and immediately obtain the free land titles over the houses and lots that were given to us by the revolutionary government. We also ask that the exoneration of the debts of the peasants, bus drivers, and market vendors who were benefited by the revolutionary government's measures be respected.

We call on the government to remain firm in the defense of the transition protocol because the advances in the stability and pacification of the country are based on it. We have supported and will continue to actively support the national reconciliation policy.

We call on the people, especially all the Sandinists, the Sandinist Assembly members, and the Sandinist deputies to struggle relentlessly and as long as it is necessary in this endeavor.

Equally, we give our total support to the National Workers Front, to the People's Struggle Front, and to all the organized workers and people who have set out to firmly defend the people's interests.

We will strive for the total rejection of these vengeful plans with the same firmness with which we assaulted the Somozist garrisons in the last stages of the offensive against the Somozist dictatorship.

Our freedom is the future of the fatherland, and even our own lives are being risked in this decisive battle.

Free fatherland or death.

[Signed] FSLN National Directorate

Daniel Ortega News Conference

PA1906232391 Managua Radio Ya in Spanish 1708 GMT 19 Jun 91

[News conference by Daniel Ortega, national coordinator of the Sandinist National Liberation Front, FSLN, with unidentified local reporters in Managua—live]

[Text] [Reporter] What will happen now that the Legislative Assembly has agreed to a waiting period?

[Ortega] We must admit we do not feel sure about this waiting period. We cannot trust this waiting period. We must be prepared for any surprises because there is a revengeful attitude in the Legislative Assembly. The commission might announce a ruling on the repeal of Laws 85 and 86 at any time. The decision would then be turned over to the plenary session, and the repeal would be approved.

I am saying this because during the meetings we have been holding since 25 February with the representatives of the government and of the National Assembly, Mr. Alfredo Cesar has made assurances that all of the land that was distributed during my administration would be respected and that the peasants and land cooperatives that had received these benefits would not be deprived of a single inch of land. Mr. Cesar clearly said this.

Likewise, he referred to housing and other lots of land, and said that these would also not be affected. He said that some compensation would be worked out for both the land and housing. As for the industries, we had to find a formula that would provide for the participation of the national and foreign investors as well as for the workers.

The situation that followed has shown the lack of seriousness on the part of Mr. Cesar to fulfill his promises, not only on this subject, but on others he has not been complying with at the National Assembly.

In other words, while the Sandinist wing complies with its agreements at the National Assembly, Mr. Cesar does not guarantee or comply with the agreements that were made through the UNO [National Opposition Union] wing. On the contrary, he joined the stands of the UNO extremist sectors. Therefore, we cannot believe in the words of these people when they say they are going to

grant a waiting period so the issue can be discussed at the national dialogue. This is not a problem of (?waiting periods). This is a problem of political vengeance; this is a problem of instability in the country.

This situation demands an immediate reply by the UNO deputies, who should give up this revengeful policy and support the agreements of the transition protocol, support the efforts that have been made for the sake of Nicaragua's stability.

We must admit that we have made plenty of progress. The workers are willing to contribute to the stability of the country. We will continue to support the participation of the workers, the UNAG [National Union of Farmers and Cattlemen] producers, the small industrialists, and the national concerted effort.

[Reporter] [Words indistinct] takeovers of radio stations and bombs last night. Is this part of the Sandinist reaction?

[Ortega] The truth is that a bomb was dropped yesterday on the Nicaraguan people. With these measures adopted by the UNO extremist deputies at the National Assembly, a terrorist action has been committed against all Nicaraguans.

The root of this situation is in the destabilizing and terrorist attitude of the UNO deputies, who went to the National Assembly yesterday, 18 June, to submit this bill. We have to eliminate the root of the problems so they can be solved rapidly.

[Reporter] The president of the Independent Liberal Party, Wilfredo Navarro, whom I interviewed this morning, said you are personally responsible for the bombs that exploded in Managua and Matagalpa yesterday.

[Ortega] I hold the UNO deputies responsible for having dropped a bomb on Nicaragua yesterday. They are the ones who dropped a bomb on Nicaragua. They are the terrorists. They are the ones who are destabilizing the country. The events that are taking place in Nicaragua today are nothing more than the effect, the natural reaction that takes place because of the terrorist actions carried out by these people yesterday, despite the efforts we are making to prevent these problems.

[Reporter] [Question indistinct]

[Ortega] It is clear that Mr. Alfredo Cesar is acting in a way that puts the country's stability at risk. We know perfectly well that he is trying to please the most reactionary forces in the United States. We do not know if President Bush is asking the Nicaraguan Government to repeal Laws 85 and 86, but we do know there are extremist groups in the United States that are interested in creating chaos and destabilizing this country. Mr. Alfredo Cesar is trying to convey a message or fulfill a mission as ordered by the extremist groups in the United States.

[Reporter] [Question indistinct]

[Ortega] All of these risks are present every day because the actions carried out by this group of UNO extremists at the National Assembly adversely affect the government itself. They adversely affect the government because the government has been making progress, in agreement with the FSLN, in the economic and the social fields. The progress has been reflected in the FSLN's participation in international economic forums. It has been reflected in the social agreements signed inside the country with regard to lands used for agricultural purposes. I am referring to land used for growing cotton and coffee and for grazing. Since this situation has not pleased the revengeful, extremist groups, they are now demagogically resorting to all this talk of honesty.

[Reporter] Commander Ortega, what are the Sandinists going to do about the accusations made by the revengeful sectors of the UNO, in addition to their acts of revenge? These people are also saying that the FSLN does not have the people's support. What is the FSLN going to do about this?

[Ortega] We do not pay attention to these accusations, just as we did not pay attention during the times of Somoza. We have been dealing with them all these years. They are once again resorting to accusations. The important thing is the following: The FSLN has shown a great spirit of reconciliation. We have had to swallow, for the sake of reconciliation, the [words indistinct] and the participation in this political process, which the revolution has been promoting [words indistinct] in the leadership of the counterrevolutionary directorate, who sent poor peasants to fight other peasants. They never made any direct commitments. They never risked their lives. They are responsible for the crimes committed against the people. We have not asked for these people to stand trial. If we are to start pointing our finger at someone, if they are thinking about pointing their finger at the Sandinists, we would have to begin by pointing at all of these people from the counterrevolution who are deputies and mayors now, who are now at the National Assembly and who were stained with blood because they were instruments of the U.S. interventionist policies. They were thieves. If we have to talk about thieves, there they are. If we are going to talk about murderers, there they are, and if we are going to point our fingers at someone, we know [word indistinct].

This is not our line. (?We reject) this revengeful and finger-pointing policy. It will only bring more war, more confrontation, and more harm to Nicaragua. We call on them to reflect, to act with maturity, and to continue to search for a solution to this crisis.

[Reporter] [Question indistinct]

[Ortega] We are for dialogue, dialogue. This is our position: to hold a dialogue.

[Reporter] However, the statement is so strong [words indistinct].

[Ortega] We are supporting the people and calling them to defend their rights.

[Reporter] Commander Daniel Ortega, the people [words indistinct] differences between the bourgeoisie or whatever you care to call them. There are differences between technocrats and between traditional, caudillo-styled politicians. I asked Godoy how he evaluated these differences, which are destabilizing elements and [words indistinct] with Sergio Ramirez. Some people ask themselves: What is behind all this? Who will profit from this? I would say that one of the main objectives is a technical coup d'etat in the government. I would like you to comment further on this matter.

Second, at 1000 on 20 June, the INRA [National Institute for Agrarian Reform] is going to present to the Property Commission a list of 9,345 land titles, which, according to them, were given to individuals who do not qualify for the agrarian reform benefits. I would like to know if the Sandinist deputies or the Property Commission members are going to participate when these gentlemen [words indistinct] in a list that has the complete names of people. I would like to know your opinion.

[Ortega] The list has to have the complete names because land titles have the beneficiaries' name on them. We promised to give land and land titles. You say there are approximately 9,000 titles. Well, I am glad. We all have to be glad because 9,000 more people own land in this country and we have really strengthened democracy in respect to property [words indistinct]. It shows that a lot of work was done in this field [words indistinct] 9,000 benefited. In any case, it shows that an effort was made after the elections to give out land titles to thousands of peasants who had not received their land titles. When we were in the government, the peasants knew that their land would not run into any type of danger, even if they did not receive their land titles. After the elections, their land was in danger, and we hurried to give out land titles to thousands of peasants and people who had the right to have a tract of land.

Not only large landowners are entitled to land. If we accept that only large landowners and capitalists can own land and deny this right to other Nicaraguans—regardless of their ideology—we would be ignoring the fact that this country experienced a democratic change. That is why [words indistinct] to give them their land titles immediately and in a [words indistinct] to all the peasants and beneficiaries, regardless of whether they voted for UNO, the FSLN, or if they were with the Nicaraguan Resistance.

[Reporter] [Question indistinct]

[Ortega] As we have clearly stated, we are calling upon these extremist (?groups) to change their attitude and not continue to further the crisis. It is necessary to promote a dialogue so that we can find a solution to the crisis and give security to the thousands of families who are being threatened by the UNO deputies who took the [word indistinct] to the Assembly. I repeat, it does not mean [words indistinct]. They have unsheathed the sword and placed it over the people's heads. That is, they have taken out the bomb, they have lit the fuse, and now the fuse is starting to burn. What if this bomb explodes? The people will defend themselves. However, the UNO deputies threw the bomb, and what we see is just a natural reaction to a terrorist act of this type.

[Reporter] [Words indistinct] process of dialogue....

[Ortega, interrupting] That is correct. We have strengthened our dialogue with the peasants who were with the Nicaraguan Resistance [words indistinct] the people. I have personally talked to some of them recently.

[Reporter] [Words indistinct] parliamentary dialogue, an extra-parliamentary one, an internationally mediated dialogue, [words indistinct]?

[Ortega] We are talking about as much dialogue as is necessary to find a fast solution to this crisis.

[Reporter] There is talk about an attempt by the revengeful sectors to arrive at a war situation. This is a very strong term. Meanwhile, there is also talk that this is a decisive battle, that this is the most serious crisis that has come up in the past year. Could you explain to us what is understood by this attempt to unleash a war, and what new elements will be present in this new outbreak?

[Ortega] Everything here [word indistinct], these people started with Law 92, and now they continue with Laws 85 and 86, and next is the law that governs the Army. They pretend to take the Army and dismantle it, and then organize another army with former Somozist guards. They also want to do away with the Supreme Court of Justice. There is an overall terrorist plan within the Legislative Assembly with which they are attacking the state institutions. This is very serious. They are attacking the Army, they are attacking the Supreme Court of Justice, and they are attacking all the Nicaraguan people.

[Reporter] [Question indistinct]

[Ortega] We do not have a problem with the government. This is not a conflict between the Sandinist Front and the president, with whom we continue working on a series of issues on which we have been making progress. We are faced here with the phenomenon of a revengeful group, who, from within the Legislative Assembly, want to do away with the president, with the government, and to impose a revengeful government in this country.

[Reporter] [Words indistinct] that the government's current actions [words indistinct] mean the beginning of a growing legalization process in Nicaragua. Also, I would like you to explain the role in this right-wing offensive—which has been exposed by the Sandinists— of the recontras, whose numbers are considerable, and of the mayors' movement, Let Us Save Democracy, that is promoting and that is calling Vice President Godoy the nation's de facto president.

[Ortega] The movement headed by Vice President Godoy is an issue that should be of the greatest concern for us. This movement has its [word indistinct] in the Legislative Assembly, as we have pointed out, and this is where Mr. Cesar and Mr. Godoy are agreeing despite several differences. Even though there are differences between them, they are agreeing because of their political ambitions, they are agreeing because of their vengeful spirits, they are even agreeing—as a result of last-minute changes—in unleashing a war in this country. This is very dangerous.

Regarding the recontras phenomenon, we believe that this is an issue linked to specific problems that the peasants, who were members of the Nicaraguan Resistance, now have. They want [word indistinct] they have no land [words indistict] for all. They do not have financing either. They have housing problems; they have not been delivered construction materials to construct even half of a decent house. They are hungry, and this triggers explosions, explosions like looting, in which almost all the community has participated. Why is this? For one simple reason. They are hungry. If they were not hungry, they would not loot stores. Of course, the radical sectors here in Managua, such as Vice President Godoy, attempt to manipulate that force. Nevertheless, we are encouraging a dialogue, communication, with these peasants who are linked to this so-called recontra phenomenon, to try to find a solution to this problem. This is a common problem among the Nicaraguan peasants.

[Reporter] [Words indistinct] the Legislative Assembly replies with gun in hand?

[Ortega] We all know that for every action there is a reaction. We can see that in history, where there is action there is reaction. Radio Ya was attacked last night. The situation is very serious now. The Legislative Assembly has set off a number of small bombs. We do not agree with bombs, or with small bombs. What we believe in is that stability has to be installed in the country.

We must immediately find a solution to this problem and not allow the crisis to worsen. We want to (?send) a message of peace and a message of reconciliation, but within the framework of respect for the achievements of the people, respect for the land of the peasants, and housing for the people.

[Reporter] As president [words indistinct] of the situation prevailing in Nicaragua...

[Ortega, interrupting] We did this before the Legislative Assembly learned of this bill that repeals Laws 85 and 86. [Words indistinct] the laws have not been repealed yet. We are struggling so that Laws 85 and 86 are not repealed, and we must find a solution to this problem. We cannot trust the waiting period. This is not a question of shelving the law or not. The crisis will worsen if this problem is prolonged. The sooner we find a solution to this problem, the sooner we will have stability in the country. Those who are interested in (?ousting) the government, those who have a vengeful policy are interested in prolonging the crisis. We must reject that and demand an immediate solution to this problem, specifically in the delivery of ownership titles for housing and land to the thousands of families who do not have these titles.

[Reporter] How about the Ownership Commission of the Assembly?

[Ortega] We are working on the concerted effort. We are working there, because we feel that this is the natural place for solving all of these problems. We also know that the conditions for solving these problems have deteriorated as a result of the action taken by the UNO deputies.

[Reporter] [Question indistinct]

[Ortega] It is a political problem, and we must understand it as such. We must talk about it and discuss it, but all in good faith. We hope those deputies who dropped that bomb yesterday will think it over and will be willing to contribute to finding a solution to the problem.

Bombs Explode in Major Cites

PA1906132791 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1204 GMT 19 Jun 91

[Text] Six powerful bombs exploded in Managua, Masaya, and Matagalpa last night. The Matagalpa bomb caused the greatest damage. It went off in the house of Julio Ruiz Quezada, an alternate deputy of the Conservative Party. Quezada's left arm was injured in the explosion, an explosion that caused serious damage to his home.

Another bomb went off in Managua at the home of Wilfred Navarro, president of the Independent Liberal Party [PLI], a staunch anti- Sandinist, and a former Somozist, according to his critics. Navarro was not home at the time of the explosion.

The remaining three bombs exploded at the National Democratic Confidence Party headquarters in Managua's Larreynaga neighborhood, the PLI office in Ciudad Jardin, and near Radio Ya's antenna transmitter located in southwest Managua.

Police laboratory experts went to the various places last night to try to establish the type of explosives used and begin the investigation.

Finance Ministry Hit

PA1906222791 Managua Radio Nicaragua Network in Spanish 1855 GMT 19 Jun 91

[Text] A Sandinist mob broke into the Finance Ministry this morning near noontime, kicking in the doors and shattering the glass with their weapons while the police in front of the Legislative Assembly just watched. The mob was led by discharged Sandinist People's Army members, who argued that since their demands had not

been met, they had decided to take over the Finance Ministry. The Finance Ministry is part of a complex where the Presidential Palace buildings are located.

According to Radio Nicaragua witnesses, it was clear that the former military personnel acted according to a coordinated plan, making use of the weapons that they had hidden in their knapsacks to break the glass doors. Once inside, they occupied the site and took control of the employees, who watched with horror as the Sandinist mob rushed in violently, armed with pistols, shouting threatening words and destroying everything in their path.

Let us listen to a recording of the violent takeover.

[Begin recording] [shouts, screams]

[First unidentified speaker] What is happening here?

[Second unidentified speaker] This is a peaceful take over by the discharged EPS members, whose demands have not been met. A commission was formed, but there is much [words indistinct]. We completed our training course over a month ago, but there is so much [word indistinct] so they took over the building. This morning we took over the building peacefully, but now the commission says we have to wait 10 days, and we want an immediate reply.

[First speaker] So then you decided to break the glass doors to get inside?

[Second speaker] Yes, because the people inside did not want to open the door. [end recording]

Matagalpa Mayor's Office Occupied

PA1906221191 Managua Radio Nicaragua Network in Spanish 1816 GMT 19 Jun 91

[Text] At 1110 today, approximately 30 armed men broke into the Matagalpa mayor's office, beat up several people, and threatened to kill those people who were carrying out legal business in the office.

According to reports, administrator Armando Mendoza, Housing Director (Boanerges Tadevos), and city councilman Francisco Herrera were taken hostage by the terrorists. The individuals who broke into the Matagalpa mayor's office were armed with AK-47 rifles, (?Makharov) pistols, fragmentation grenades, and side arms, and they said they belonged to the Miguel d'Escoto Brockman Community Movement. One pregnant lady, Sandra Benavides, is on the verge of miscarrying because the individuals control the office exit.

In addition, at 1050, another group of people took over Radio Matagalpa and held radio station employees Elvia Flores and Milton Almendares at gunpoint. These men apparently had been instructed to not let the station's newscast report on the withdrawal of the proposal to repeal Laws 85 and 86, sources said.

Corinto Mayor's Office Seized

PA2006051591 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 0435 GMT 20 Jun 91

[Text] We have been informed from Corinto that the mayor's office in that port was occupied a short while ago at 2230. Here is Luis Manuel Centeno who will read a statement and report on the situation. Go ahead, Luis Manuel.

[Begin live relay] Corinto, 19 June 1991

Public Statement:

The Jorge Martinez Sanchez Association of Combatants and Historical Supporters of the Sandinist National Libertion Front in the Port of Corinto informs our people that in view of the situation stemming from the plans to abrogate laws 85 and 86, our organization expresses support for the poorest sectors of our population who were helped by our Sandinist People's Revolution with lots, houses, and land for peasants.

Our organization holds contras disguised as deputies, such as Alfredo Cesar, Azucena Ferrey, [name indistinct], Zacarias Hernandez, and the like, responsible for trying to lead the country to anarchy and chaos and for seeking U.S. intervention and the installation in our country of a puppet and servile government like Endara's in Panama.

We, therefore, urge our people to organize as one in order to continue defending the achievements obtained by our Sandinist People's Revolution and our homeland's sovereignty.

Free fatherland or death!

At the same time, we inform you that at 2230, the mayor's office in Corinto was occupied by a group of companeros.

Radio Dario Taken Over

PA1906160891 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1210 GMT 19 Jun 91

[Report by Jose Esteban Quesada]

[Text] Good morning, Nicaraguan people. We have noticed that the latest actions of those who oppose the repeal of laws 85 and 86 include the takeover of radio stations as a means to make propaganda and announce their political intentions. Radio Corporacion has been taken over by a group of people who call themselves The People's Information Group. Radio Sandino is being watched by the police, as is Radio Nicaragua. Yesterday, we heard of a bomb explosion near Radio Ya. As a result of all this, everyone is tiptoeing around, so to speak. But, as many people say, [words indistinct]. In Chinandega, Dr. Jose Gutierrez Pantoja, a UNO [National Opposition Unity] deputy and Radio San Cristobal official, was threatened yesterday. Radio Dario of Leon was also

taken over yesterday. Let us listen to Dr. Gutierrez on what is happening in the country's west. Come in, Dr. Gutierrez.

[Begin relay] At 0830 yesterday, when Deputy Commander Francisco Diaz was at my home to discuss with me the country's problems and the measures that might be taken jointly with civilian authorities to protect the population, we received a phone call from some gangsters who described themselves as members of the Sandinist National Liberation Front. They should rather be called Sandineros because of the outrages they have perpetrated in Sandino's name. Some of them are true Sandinists and their true relationship with Sandino's ideals should be acknowledged. These individuals threatened to kill me and the director, set fire to the radio station, and harm the station's personnel. Commander Diaz took the proper precautions and posted a policeman to protect my home. He also told me he would be on the alert for whatever might happen. At 1600 yesterday, Juan Toruno Calderon of Radio Dario told me that the same people, most of them from ISEPES [Salvadoran Institute for Political, Economic, and Social Studies], went to Radio Dario and tried to damage the installation. Calderon has asked a government delegate and President Chamorro to protect his property. This is the second time that the radio station—his and the other workers' sole means of living—has been attacked. We have also received a protest by peasants who have commented on the policy of the National Development Bank's manager, said to be sponsored by the Managua top leadership. The peasants say that he has been managing foreign cooperatives and some outside of Chinandega Department. They say this is suspicious because such an action denies service to the region's cooperatives. The objective and purpose of the National Developoment Bank's policy is unknown. The peasants told me about this situation yesterday, a situation I think should be reported to the top Corfina [National Financial Corporation] officials and whoever manages the Nicaraguan national banking system. [end relay]

We have called the home of Radio Dario's owner since the radio station's phone did not answer. We wanted to hear about the demands of the people who took over the station. We want to know if the station is even on the air. Come in, Toruno.

[Begin relay] [Toruno] Thanks. At approximately 1800 yesterday, some 15 members of the Sandinist mobs took over Radio Dario's studies and broadcast their demands so laws 85 and 86 are not repealed. Those people are still there. The station's personnel vacated the installations.

[Quesada] What do you demand?

[Toruno] I am reporting this action to the proper authorities. We have pointed out that we will hold them responsible for any damage they might cause. [sentence indistinct].

[Quesada] Thanks, Juan. Is the station on the air at this time?

[Toruno] It is; only under the control of the Sandinist mob.

[Quesada] The whole installation?

[Toruno] Only the studios.

[Quesada] Is the plant okay?

[Toruno] It is operating normally. [end relay]

Weapons Use Denied

PA2006060291 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0020 GMT 20 Jun 91

[Text] Managua, 19 Jun (ACAN-EFE)—Today, the group of masked people occupying Managua's "Radio Corporacion" for the second consecutive day denied statements by Nicaraguan Government Minister Carlos Hurtado that they are armed.

One of the young men, his face covered with a handkerchief and wearing a cap, said Hurtado was "irresponsible" because he had "invented" ideas that the people occupying the radio station are armed and that they have threatened to shoot if the police tried to dislodge them.

During a recent news conference, the minister said he had decided against dislodging the young men who are occupying the radio station because they had threatened to shoot if the police dared to try to get them out by force. The minister also charged that the Sandinists were behind the protest.

"Nobody is armed here. The only weapon we have is the courage to defend the revolutionary attainments and we are all willing to give our lives in this endeavor," another of the occupants emphasized.

The hooded men tookover the "Radio Corporacion" studios to protest the National Assembly's debate of a bill that attempts to return the property that was confiscated and distributed by the Sandinists before they left the government in 1990.

Another hooded man told ACAN-EFE that Police Chief Rene Vivas and Commander Jose Figueroa were the only ones who had entered the studio, but they had not found weapons. They added that Hurtado's threats do not scare them.

While the young men spoke to the ACAN-EFE reporter, a lady served them bad food and a group of nurses arrived to express their solidarity and to criticize the government's stance in the conflict.

Around the studio there are curious people and people who support the takeover. Police are also in the area.

Also, a Ciudad Jardin resident has placed his speakers outside his house and is playing revolutionary and protest type music.

Protestors' Goals, Plans Outlined

PA1906193991 Leon Radio Dario in Spanish 1716 GMT 19 Jun 91

[Statement read by unidentified member of the People's Struggle Front from the Radio Dario studios in Leon—live; monitored in progress]

[Text] ...[words indistinct] the vengeful sectors of the ultraright wing of the 14 UNO [National Opposition Union] parties not to derogate Laws 85 and 86. [Words indistinct] to avoid further consequences in the population. We are sure that no family or worker will allow them to take the [words indistinct] his house or land [words indistinct].

Thus, we call on the responsible (?judgment) of National Assembly President Alfredo Cesar, Vice President Virgilio Godoy, and Arnoldo Aleman, who are the main leaders of this ultraright wing movement of the 14 UNO parties that are [words indistinct] for discussion at the Assembly [words indistinct] and requesting the derogation of Laws 85 and 86, thus, bringing this country to chaos, disorder, and a social explosion.

Thus, we appeal to maturity and responsibility. The people must unite and be ready to reject any action. We call for nonviolence, to avoid falling to provocations, and to strengthen the message, block by block, neighborhood by neighborhood, area by area, cooperative by cooperative.

Brothers who are listening to this station, these microphones are here and we have turned them into our official voice at this time of the people's struggle so we can speak and, once and for all, have these persons respect the people's rights.

We are not willing to yield a single inch of our land to the former (?people) who are now returning from Miami to claim it [words indistinct] life.

Brothers who are listening to us through this station, we urge you to communicate directly since we have officially announced the telephone line [words indistinct] solidarity and support to this physical [words indistinct] of the People's Struggle Front [FLP], this telephone line was cut.

Therefore, we call people to come directly to the Radio Dario station to announce the steps they are taking in their respective communities.

The FLP calls on the right-wing sectors [words indistinct] of Leon, on Deputy Government Minister Jose Palais, on Eriberto Reyes as Government Ministry Delegate to Leon Department, and also on Ortiz [not further identified] and all those ranch owners, landlords, to take a mature and responsible attitude to avoid clashes with the peasants and the population.

We call on our people to stay alert to any maneuver they might want to carry out in light of the peaceful actions we have been carrying out.

Brothers who are listening to this station, we will be in constant communication with you and we will not leave here until it is certain that Laws 85 and 86 will not be derogated and that those people in UNO desist from introducing this proposal for [National Assembly] approval.

We call on our brothers to remain ready to heed the call of this faction of the FLP that is now staging a peaceful occupation.

Government Threatens Force

PA1906131891 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1158 GMT 19 Jun 91

[Text] Approximately 800 people remained near Radio Corporacion last night in support for the group that is occupying the station to protest the possible abolishment of Laws 85 and 86. Meanwhile, [station owner] Urelio Fabio Gadea Mantilla described as useless and tolerant the attitude of those who are permitting the presence of criminals at a private business engaged in social service activities.

Heavily armed policemen protected the area to prevent violent disturbances similar to those that occurred in July 1990.

Francisco Guerrero, a community leader of the Las Torres neighborhood, said that the demonstrators came from a dozen neighborhoods in eastern Managua. Guerrero said that Government Minister Carlos Hurtado and a large group of his bodyguards went to the station at noon yesterday to warn protesters that if the station was not evacuated he would use force. However, the protesters rejected the minister who left the area with the help of his bodyguards.

Registration of Property Promised

PA2006055491 Managua Radio Corporacion in Spanish 2310 GMT 19 Jun 91

[Text] We have a last-minute report. It is hereby announced that as of 0700 tomorrow morning, the Managua mayor's office will be opened, or rather there will be public tables placed in front of the Managua mayor's office where persons having parcels of land that have not yet been legally registered will be able to register the land and begin processing the documents so they can keep the property under the protection of Laws 85 and 86.

These tables will be working as of 0700, and you will be able to go there tomorrow, Saturday, and Sunday [days as heard] to register your land. Those parcels of land that the residents received as benefits during the Sandinist administration will now be legalized.

Well, that is definitely a good sign that the government, the government authorities want to give a positive reply.

We have just been told that it is not the government that will be working at the tables. The tables will be manned by a community movement. We clarify that it is a community movement.

However, during this broadcast of the people's information team that was brought to this radio station by the organized people, we hope the deputies, the National Opposition Union representatives at the Legislative Assembly, will lend an ear to the cry of the people. We hope they will listen to the millions of persons who received the benefits of Laws 85 and 86, and say: No to abolishing these laws, no to the eviction of the poor families who had the opportunity to have a place to protect themselves from bad weather.

Do these deputies really seek to send thousands upon thousands of Nicaraguan families out into the streets? Please, gentlemen, listen to the people, the same people who voted for you so you could hold a seat in the National Assembly. There are not only Sandinists among those persons affected by the repeal of these laws, but also people who voted for the National Opposition Union, and many of them probably do not even like the revolutionary organization.

Commentary Condemns Bombings

PA2006055591 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 2329 GMT 19 Jun 91

[Commentary by unidentified station announcer—live]

[Text] At Radio Sandino, as the big S [as heard], we want to clearly state our position because it is necessary for the Nicaraguan people to clearly understand that we, as a radio station, as a news media, will never be in favor of any type of action such as this. There were bombings and terrorist attacks. We have to condemn these types of situations, which undoubtedly will not bring a [words indistinct] to our country.

The reconciliation of the Nicaraguan people has to take place in a totally different climate. As a radio station, as Radio Sandino, as the big S, we are totally against these types of actions, which can only create situations that are much more difficult and complex and that can only lead to more bloodshed among Nicaraguans.

We expect that either side, regardless of what they may be, will prevent these types of situations. These situations cannot take place, and as newsmen, as a news media, we definitely, absolutely condemn them. These terrorist actions will only bring more sorrow, more pain, more blood, and more hatred, which we have to begin eradicating little by little and which we must resolve through more civilized means. These problems can be solved through understanding and dialogue.

Of course, we hope these types of situations will no longer cause anxiety among the Nicaraguan people because we are all brothers and we have to behave as such.

We, therefore, hope that these types of incidents end once and for all so that we do not return to previous practices. The government, the more recalcitrant people of the National Opposition Union, and the rightist groups should understand that the people made a revolution and that this revolution is in force. They must understand that no one will be able to destroy the revolution and its achievements, therefore, things must be seen from a different point of view.

We must continually hold talks. Former President Daniel Ortega, met approximately a few hours ago with the diplomatic corps in our country and told them about the decision of the Sandinist National Liberation Front [FSLN] to hold talks with the UNO deputies. He has called for a discussion between the FSLN, the government, and the UNO deputies to find solutions that will not harm anyone. At least they should not harm those who [words indistinct] after the revolution and who obtained a house or a plot of land. Naturally, those people must comply with all the regulations that have been established in this country so that the government can return [words indistinct] and it must be clear who will have the right to ownership. We hope the government and the UNO deputies accept the proposal, the offer made by the FSLN, through its coordinator [word indistinct] a dialogue among the three groups, the government, the FSLN, and the UNO deputies so that the situation in our country can improve instead of getting worse and so that Nicaragua can actually, after so many years of war, aggression, and confrontations promoted by the U.S. Government, enjoy some peace, which we really need.

Dario Radio Carries FLP Bulletin

PA1906200691 Leon Radio Dario in Spanish 1732 GMT 19 Jun 91

["Information Bulletin No. 1" issued by the People's Struggle Front in Leon —live]

[Text] The People's Struggle Front [FLP] announces to our people the following: On 18 June at approximately 1630 [0130 GMT] a group of companions peacefully occupied the Radio Dario studios with the following objectives:

1. To speak out against the elimination of Laws 85 and 86 which benefited thousands of Nicaraguan families with land for farming, lots, and houses to live in (?comfortably);

2. To call on our people, regardless of political affiliation, to join the struggle to defend peace, true reconciliation, and democracy;

3. To call on Alfredo Cesar, Arnoldo Aleman, and Virgilio Godoy, and the deputies of the 14 UNO [National Opposition Union] political parties—who are the guilty ones for bringing this country to destabilization, chaos, disorders, and polarization of Nicaraguans—to think this over;

We have received calls from many people from the 1st of May, Rosendo Daniel Pacheco, Posada del Sol, and Guadalupe neighborhoods. The saleswomen of the Pancho Barcenas market and the inhabitants of the Enrique Dolores have come here. They have all expressed support for our measures.

We want to report that we are maintaining order, discipline, and communication with the people at the controls of Radio Dario to guarantee the safety of the installations and the transmission equipment.

We also received anonymous telephone calls during the night and part of the morning from vengeful persons using language and threats that do not help solve this situation.

We have started and will fight to the end through this peaceful occupation until the deputies of the 14 UNO parties suspend their attempts to eliminate Laws 85 and 86.

Go on peasant brothers, population in general. Only united will we be able to defend our rights.

FLP Staff transmitting through Radio Dario, official voice of the FLP.

Ramirez Urges Disobedience

PA1906163391 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1225 GMT 19 Jun 91

[Text] Sergio Ramirez, head of the Sandinist faction in the National Assembly, has invited the Nicaraguan people to disregard all suggestions that result from the UNO's [National Opposition Unity] decision to repeal Laws 85 and 86 because the UNO action is unconstitutional.

Ramirez urged the population to make use of their natural rights and disregard unfair laws aimed at stripping thousands of people's homes and land tracts which came about as a benefit of the two laws. On the legal aspects of this issue, Ramirez said that the National Assembly's Justice Commission is not entitled to issue legally binding resolutions and, for this reason, no one should heed whatever the commission has to say. Any decision must originate in the executive and judicial branches.

Occupation of Radios Updated

PA2006153291 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1213 GMT 20 Jun 91

[Text] [Announcer] Several departmental radio stations are still occupied. Radio Matagalpa this morning was still in the hands of a group of people who said they reject the proposal to repeal Laws 85 and 86 because it threatens their right to housing. Radio San Cristobal, of Chinandega, owned by Deputy Jose Gutierrez Pantoja and which was taken over yesterday by a group of people who make a similar claim regarding the proposal, has not yet been returned to its owner. Radio Dario in Leon is also still occupied. Lorenzo Sofonias Mayorga, a Radio Sandino correspondent who has a newscast on Radio Dario, explains the situation. Come in, Lorenzo.

[Begin Mayorga relay] Good morning, dear listeners of the Sucesos newscast. At this time, 0615, Radio Dario, which was taken over at 0430 on 18 June, is still occupied by the Sandinist members of the People's Liberation Front here in Leon. (?It has been reported) that Radio Corporacion has already been returned by the Sandinists and is on the air again. We, the reporters of Radio Dario, have been in touch with the owners of this station, Juan Toruno Calderon and his son Juan Jose Toruno, as well as Abdiel Toruno, Jr., in connection with conversations held with the departmental governmental delegate, Humberto Reyes, and other authorities.

We have plans to go out to the streets with loudspeakers today to read messages and communiques supporting President Chamorro, who is displeased with the takeover of Radio Dario. This takeover makes no sense because a demonstration with vehicles took place yesterday. We had thought that the takeover was to serve only as a rally point for the people so they could participate in the demonstration. Yet the station is still occupied. In addition, between 30 and 50 people are still in front of the station. This is the situation here in Leon. Nevrtheless, we think there is a good chance that Radio Dario will be returned today. It is just too bad that the first Sandinist congress will be held today at the recreation center here in Leon. In the honor of this congress—we have seen a number of banners reading Hail to the First Sandinist Congress—we hope the Sandinist leaders in Leon will consider that Radio Corporacion in Managua has already been returned. For this reason, we expect the Sandinist leaders to give instructions so the people who are in the station can vacate Radio Dario during the morning or at noon at the latest.[end relay]

[Announcer] What did you do when these people took over the radio station?

[Begin Mayorga relay] Well, at the beginning, as I told you, we thought that the takeover of the station was to help the demonstration. [passage indistinct] [end relay]

[Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish at 1255 GMT on 20 June reports that Managua Radio Corporacion was vacated on the night of 19 June.]

FLP Ends Radio Station Occupation

PA2006153591 Leon Radio Dario in Spanish 1323 GMT 20 Jun 91

["Information Bulletin No. 3" issued by the People's Struggle Front in Leon—live]

[Text] From Radio Dario's studios, the People's Struggle Front [FLP], which struggles peacefully for the [words indistinct] of the people, announces the end of the occupation of this radio station.

We still maintain a firm and relentless position to demand that the deputies of the 14 UNO [National

Opposition Union] parties headed by Alfredo Cesar, Virgilio Godoy, and Arnoldo Aleman respect the laws that benefit the poor and hardworking people of Nicaragua. Do not play with Laws 85 and 86.

From this radio station, the FLP of the heroic town of Leon issues this call to reason: Do not bite off more than you can chew, take the blinders off your eyes and see the people's reaction, which is like a beehive. Because if provoked, bees will swarm, defend themselves, and attack.

Members of the UNO: Enough violence and political vengeance, the people voted for you to serve and not to become repressors and exploit us.

Deputies of the 14 UNO parties, carry out your duties or the people will question your attitudes.

We report the community of Leon of Region 2 that on 19 June at approximately 1930, many of the townspeople of the city's neighborhoods carried out a march that ended before Radio Dario's studios where they then held a meeting. At the meeting, they decided to give total support to the fair struggle started by the FLP and struggle to the end to defend the real peace, democracy and defend by all available means the lands, houses, and lots given by the revolution.

Long live the FLP, no to violence, and yes to peace.

Police Evict 50 From Corporacion

PA2006161591 Paris AFP in Spanish 1500 GMT 20 Jun 91

[Text] Managua, 20 Jun (AFP)—A group of opposition members that was occupying the rightist radio station Radio Corporacion in Managua was evicted on the night of 19 June by National Police units, while half a dozen mayor's offices continued to be occupied by Sandinist supporters today, authorities have reported.

Riot units, under the command of National Police Chief Commander Rene Vivas, entered the Radio Corporacion studios and peacefully evicted approximately 50 persons who had been inside for three [as received] days.

Meanwhile, the mayors' offices in Managua, Masaya, Ciudad Sandino, Nindiri, Matagalpa, and Puerto Sandino remained occupied today by supporters of the Sandinist People's Struggle Front (FLP), whose coordinator is former Foreign Minister Miguel D'Escoto.

The wave of protests was sparked by an initiative of the government assemblymen seeking to repeal Laws 85 and 86, which guaranteed urban and rural property to thousands of Nicaraguans, who benefitted from the confiscations carried out by the recently displaced Sandinist Government.

The debate was postponed for two to three weeks to give more time to the socioeconomic concerted dialogue—a forum which groups the business, labor, and trade union sectors of the country—to present its recommendations on the matter to the National Assembly (parliament).

D'Escoto Notes Talks With Municipal Authorities

PA2006125591 Managua Radio Corporacion in Spanish 0013 GMT 20 Jun 91

[Text] Attention Radio Corporacion listeners. We will estalish contact with Father Miguel d'Escoto Brockman, coordinator of the People's Struggle Front.

Father you are on line. We understand that you have contacted the nation's authorities to undertake negotiations for a solution to the peoples' initiative. This initiative was in reaction to the several sectors that might be affected if Laws 85 and 86 are repealed, by presentation of the bill at the National Assembly. We want the people to know the reason for the negotiations, what it was all about, and the people involved.

[Begin D'Escoto telephone relay] I believe you already know that yesterday the townspeople took over the mayor's office. At that time they stated that they were appointing a commission to negotiate with the municipal authorities to return the mayor's office. I was appointed to lead this negotiating commission—comprised of Adrian Meza, Companero Mario Noguera, Hector Paladino, Fabio Tablada, and Marcial del Rios—that met last night.

We met in the mayor's office with Deputy Mayor Roberto Cedeno because Mayor Arnoldo Aleman is currently out of the country. The negotiations began with Roberto Cedeno. Also present were Agustin Jarquin and Clemente Guido. I would say that I consider very important the fact that we began a process of conversation with a view to reaching a level of serious and responsible negotiations.

I also think we can say the meeting was held in an acceptable atmosphere. We are the representatives of the townspeople. The representatives of the mayor also expressed their goodwill so we could solve this situation. We went there once we were appointed to this mission.... [station abruptly goes off the air]

Extradition of EPS Deserter, Two Others Requested

PA1906130791 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1930 GMT 18 Jun 91

[Text] Lieutenant Colonel Ricardo Wheelock Roman, the Army's public relations director, said at a news conference today that the EPS [Sandinist People's Army] will ask the Costa Rican Government to extradite an EPS deserter and two former members of the Nicaraguan Resistance [RN] who were arrested in that country and charged with gunrunning.

Costa Rican authorities arrested EPS Lieutenant Mario Miranda Lopez and former RN members Ramon Jarquin and Reinaldo Castano.

Here is Lt. Col. Wheelock Roman:

[Begin recording, in progress] ... and the desertion from the Army of Lt. Mario Miranda Lopez, who was assigned to [name indistinct] under the San Carlos Brigade. Approximately five days ago we notified Costa Rican authorities that Lt. Miranda Lopez had escaped from his military unit carrying a large amount of weapons. Yesterday, Costa Rican authorities informed us that they had arrested Lt. Miranda who was accompanied by Ramon Jarquin and Reinaldo Castano, two former RN members. We were also told by the Costa Rican authorities that they had confiscated 20 AK-47 rifles, one submachine gun, one pistol, and a large amount of ammunition.

Today the Army instituted a court martial against Lt. Mario Miranda who will be judged and punished in accordance with the law. In addition, we have asked the Costa Rican Government, through the Foreign Ministry, to return the confiscated weapons that belong to the EPS and to extradite Lt. Miranda, the other two Nicaraguans, as well as any other person implicated in this case. [end recording]

Telcor Workers Strike for Wage Hike

PA1906220091 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 1956 GMT 19 Jun 91

[Text] Managua, 19 Jun (NOTIMEX)—Union leader Francisco Guadamuz has reported that some 1,800 Nicaraguan Telecommunications and Postal Service Institute (Telcor) workers started an indefinite strike today to demand a 50-percent wage hike.

After holding five meetings with Telcor's management, the employees at the operations, technical, post office, and administrative services started the strike today.

Guadamuz warned that if they did not reach an agreement on a 30-percent wage hike starting in June and a 20.15-percent increase for job reclassification, "the strike is going to become more forceful."

Nicaragua was left without communications for three days in December 1990 when the workers joined the last phase of a three-week strike by the international system operators.

Panama

'Dissatisfaction' With Endara Government Noted

PA1906141091 Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 2300 GMT 17 Jun 91

[Text] Dr. Ricardo Arias Calderon, top leader of the Christian Democratic Party, said today that there is great dissatisfaction among the Panamanian people over the course that President Endara's government has taken.

[Begin Arias Calderon recording, in progress] ...to the extent that course moves away from the path that we took when we were struggling against the dictatorship and dreaming of democracy. At the time, we thought that in a democracy, we would have not only freedom, but also justice and development for the people's well-being.

There is great dissatisfaction because the Endara government is increasingly moving away from that path. I believe it is time to return to that path. I think it is time to return to the plan that served as a goal for the great democratic, civic struggle. The government will have to make serious rectifications to achieve this. I believe that would be the key to the consolidation of democracy.

Some people are fishing in troubled waters by plotting conspiracies. They can do this because the waters are troubled. If agitators can operate successfully at this time, it is because there is great dissatisfaction. [end recording]

Ford on Economic Proposals, Reported Plots

PA1906143891 Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 2300 GMT 17 Jun 91

[Interview with Guillermo Ford, planning and economic policy minister, by unidentified reporter; place and date not given—recorded]

[Text] Guillermo Ford, planning and economic policy minister, said this afternoon that the national government will soon receive the Planning Ministry's economic proposals. Ford said that everything will hinge on the economic council's meeting that is scheduled to take place tomorrow. According to the minister, the proposals include very important suggestions regarding the Social Security Fund.

[Ford] In my opinion, everything is proceeding exactly as we planned. I hope there will be no unpleasant surprises.

[Unidentified reporter] What, primarily, is being proposed?

[Ford] The entire economic program, which has already been presented. I would like to take this opportunity to tell the community that, where the Social Security Fund law is concerned, there is great open-mindedness on the part of the commission that was handling this topic in the Legislative Assembly and to say also that it is important for members of the community to contribute their ideas.

It has been inaccurately reported that the Social Security Fund will guarantee the debts of financial institutions. Nothing could be further from the truth. It was proposed that the portions of the original law, that allowed the fund to invest in the country's foreign debt, be eliminated. That can be eliminated. Another proposal is that the retirement age for women remain at 55, and that the autonomy of the Social Security Fund be preserved through the election of the new social security director from a three-person slate presented by the Board of Directors.

Let ideas be presented. I am certain that the Legislative Assembly is willing to consider all such initiatives. The important thing is to safeguard the interests of those who are covered by the Social Security Fund.

[Reporter] What impact have the reports of alleged plots and plans to assassinate Panamanian political leaders had internationally?

[Ford] Well, I said the other day that as far as I can remember, every Panamanian democracy has been faced with people wanting to oust it by the time it reached its first year in office. The important thing is to consolidate the democratic system in Panama. We cannot allow any kind of plot to prosper, because anyone who wants to remove the democratic system has wicked plans to return to the past, and our people cannot allow themselves to return to a Noriega-style past.

PLA Wants Fulfillment of 'Parliamentary Pact'

PA2006022291 Panama City EL PANAMA AMERICA in Spanish 19 Jun 91 p 1

[Carlos Vargas article]

[Text] The Authentic Liberal Party [PLA] will demand fulfillment of the "parliamentary pact" which established that the PLA will control the presidency of the Legislative Assembly for the upcoming legislative period beginning in September 1991.

According to Legislator Lucas Zarak, a year and a half ago the political parties that made up the ruling coalition—the PLA, the Arnulfist Party, Molirena [Nationalist Liberal Republican Movement], and the PDC [Christian Democratic Party]—reached a political agreement in which the board of directors of the legislature was distributed for the following three legislative periods.

This pact, which was later disavowed by the PDC, provides that in the legislative period beginning in September 1991, the presidency of the Legislative Assembly will go to the PLA, the first vice presidency to the Arnulfists, and the second vice presidency to the PDC. Since the PDC is no longer in the government, however, it may be replaced by Molirena.

"We are going to demand fulfillment of the pact," Zarak said.

The PLA's candidate for president of the Assembly will reportedly be Legislator Arnulfo Escalona.

Other legislative sources indicated that the original pact may be thrown out and that the Molirena and PDC legislators might reach an agreement or form a legislative bloc.

During the preceding legislative session, the PDC demanded the presidency of the Assembly, but in the end all the other blocs banded together to elect a member of Molirena and two members of the PLA to the board of directors.

Weapons Seized at Costa Rican Border Confirmed

PA1906133691 Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 2300 GMT 18 Jun 91

[Interview with Chiriqui Disctict Attorney Emilio de Leon by unidentified reporter; place and date not given—recorded]

[Text] Chiriqui District Attorney Emilio de Leon confirmed this afternoon that a cargo of weapons has been seized at the Costa Rican-Panamanian border and that former members of the now-defunct Panama Defense Forces [FDP] are allegedly involved in this operation.

[De Leon] We have been exchanging information with the Costa Rican authorities for some time now. Two weeks ago, we exchanged some documents in Ciudad Neilly. Officials from the Attorney General's Office of Panama went to Costa Rica to look into the transshipment of weapons in the border area. We must now wait for the Costa Rican officials to send us the documents they have so we can see if there are any Panamanians directly involved.

[Unidentified reporter] It is said these weapons were going to be purchased by a rebel group that sought to oust the Endara government.

[De Leon] The news reports mention that, but actually, this must be verified. We must verify the evidence and documents to clarify what the destination of the weapons was.

[Reporter] What type of weapons are included?

[De Leon] There are AK-47's and one submachine gun.

Argentina

Foreign Ministry on RSA Apartheid Decision

PY2006010891 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 2057 GMT 19 Jun 91

[Text] Buenos Aires, 19 Jun (TELAM)—The Argentine Government today expressed its "satisfaction" over the abrogation of the law on population registration by race in Johannesburg, an action that eliminates "one of the main instruments of the regime of discrimination that had been established in South Africa [RSA]."

In an official communique released this afternoon, the Foreign Ministry indicates that the decision of the government of President Frederik de Klerk "is a very important step toward implementing the project to create an equal social system that respects human dignity."

The government also expresses its wish that South Africa "will rebuild its social and political structures to benefit relations between our two countries."

Police Arrest Neo-Nazi Leader in Buenos Aires

PY1906163491 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1537 GMT 19 Jun 91

[Text] Buenos Aires, 19 Jun (TELAM)—Neo-Nazi leader Alejandro Biondini was arrested early today when he was caught painting swastikas at the Plaza de la Republica, across from the Obelisk. He is being held at the 3d Precinct.

The police have charged Biondi with having violated the racial discrimination law and have placed him at the disposal of Federal Judge Ricardo Weschler, who will question him tomorrow.

Biondini has insisted on staging a rally slated for 20 June at 1900 outside the Plaza de los Congresos despite the ban imposed by the executive branch.

Bolivia

Government 'Satisfaction' Over Escobar Surrender

PY2006015891 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2354 GMT 19 Jun 91

[Text] La Paz, 19 Jun (EFE)—The Bolivian Government today expressed its satisfaction over the surrender of drug trafficker Pablo Escobar Gaviria to Colombian authorities because "it proves that law prevails over crime." This statement was made to EFE by Information Minister and Spokesman Mario Rueda Pena.

Rueda Pena added: "In the long run, law prevails over crime and delinquency. This is the fate of all drug traffickers."

Bolivia is the world's second-largest producer of coca leaf, the raw material used to produce cocaine. According to the U.S. DEA, Bolivia is also the second-largest drug refiner in the world, after Colombia.

For several months now Bolivian authorities have suspected that Colombian drug traffickers have been coming to Bolivia's jungle areas to refine cocaine. This phenomenon coincided with the offensive launched against drug producers by the previous Colombian Government headed by Virgilio Barco.

Paz Approves German Cooperation Agreement

PY1906133091 La Paz Television Boliviana Network in Spanish 0200 GMT 19 Jun 91

[Excerpt] President Jaime Paz Zamora today signed a law approving and ratifying the financial cooperation agreement that was signed by Bolivia and Germany in La Paz on 2 April 1991.

The law was not signed in Paz Zamora's office but for the first time in Bolivian history aboard a small airplane of the Bolivian Air Force which landed in Potosi under very dangerous conditions due to 60-knot winds.

The financial cooperation agreement foresees the investment of dozens of millions of dollars in development projects. Among these projects is a $10-million study to solve the running water problem in Potosi. [passage omitted]

Brazil

Collor Interviewed at Embassy in Washington

PY2006021291 Brasilia Voz do Brasil Network in Portuguese 2200 GMT 19 Jun 91

[Passages in quotation marks recorded]

[Text] President Fernando Collor de Mello gave another interview in Washington today before holding a luncheon at the Brazilian Embassy for legislators, diplomats, business representatives, and academics. He said Brazil needs to understand that it must depend on itself more and more every day and that the romantic era of international relations has ended.

[Collor] "I am more convinced each day that we must depend on ourselves. We must do our job. We must create the conditions to attract foreign investment, thus guaranteeing the possibility of economic growth."

President Collor noted that it is not appropriate for Brazil to ask for aid but rather reciprocal treatment in joining the international market.

[Collor] "It is time for Brazil to withdraw its barriers from international trade and open itself to the world. Brazil has implemented a stabilization program with great sacrifice for our people, and some positive results have already been achieved. Brazil expects this effort to be recognized by the international community. This

recognition can be expressed through reciprocal treatment for that which we are offering to our partners."

The president said that the terrible division between developed countries—the defenders of expertise, technology, and capital—and underdeveloped countries must not continue.

[Collor] "We want to build a world of peace and solidarity. The current situation cannot be maintained; it must not continue. Developing nations like Brazil want access to new forms of expertise, because Brazil feels that this progress in high technology cannot be the property of any one party; it must be considered the patrimony of mankind."

He added that developed nations must be warned about their responsibility in preventing the gap between developed and underdeveloped nations from getting wider. He stressed Brazil's peaceful policy and the fact that science must serve to improve the people's standard of living.

[Collor] "We understand that science must serve and must be used to improve the living conditions of the world population. It can never be used to destroy the world, to create difficulties in daily coexistence with its creations, with war machines or whatever. Our desire for access to technology is aimed exclusively at improving the living conditions of the peoples in developing nations."

President Collor said Brazil does not want access to technology to produce weapons and that he clearly explained this to President George Bush and U.S. senators and representatives.

Government on South African Apartheid Law

PY2006020891 Brasilia Voz do Brasil Network in Portuguese 2200 GMT 19 Jun 91

[Text] The Brazilian Government has expressed its satisfaction over the South African Parliament's decision to repeal the Population Registration Act, the last trace of the apartheid regime.

According to the Foreign Ministry, the government of President Frederik de Klerk has reaffirmed its commitment to dismantle apartheid in South Africa.

The Brazilian Government also expects that South Africa will soon become a multiracial democracy, thus resuming its place in the international community.

Collor Asserts Authority Over Debt Negotiator

PY1906150691 Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 18 Jun 91 p 3

[Text] Washington—President Fernando Collor yesterday criticized economist Pedro Malan, who replaced Ambassador Jorio Dauster as the main negotiator of the Brazilian debt, because Malan said right after his installation that his boss, to whom he had to report, was Economy Minister Marcilio Marques Moreira.

President Collor has said, however, that there is only one boss because there is only one president. He explained: All decisions are made by the president. I will determine the way the debt will be negotiated. This is a characteristic of the presidential system, of which I believe Mr. Malan is well aware.

Presidential Spokesman Claudio Humberto said that Malan must learn that in a presidential system, the president of the Republic is the boss.

Claudio Humberto threatened: I suggest that Malan demonstrates that he understands this now, while the presidential delegation is in the United States, otherwise President Collor will show him very clearly who is the boss.

He added that he does not mean that Malan should be dismissed. According to the spokesman, the government would like to see the economist fulfill his duties to the end, but always obey direct orders from the president of the Republic.

Business Growth Fosters Dialogue With Government

PY1906141491 Rio de Janeiro Rede Globo Television in Portuguese 2300 GMT 18 Jan 91

[Text] The business sector and the government are again understanding each other. Both sides are regaining confidence and are convinced that the country will grow. This understanding has already been reflected in the economic indexes.

The industrial sector has given the first indication that the economy is recuperating. An IBGE [Brazilian Institute of Geography and Statistics] poll has shown that industrial production grew by 13.5 percent in April and that the employment rate has also grown in the industrial sector. Despite the fact that 123,000 workers are unemployed in Sao Paulo, 3,500 workers were rehired during May, and Sao Paulo commercial sales grew by 7 percent compared to April.

According to various research institutes, even the inflation rate slowed down last month, standing at between five and eight percent.

Growth is the word that is helping the government and the business sector to become closer. No complaints were heard at a major meeting of industrial representatives in Sao Paulo this week. If there were any complaints, no one bothered to voice them. The most optimistic are even convinced that more workers will be hired next month.

[Begin recording] [Sindipecas company president Pedro Eberhardt] Car spare parts manufacturers should begin rehiring workers as of July or August, when the car industry returns to normal.

[Businessman Roberto Jeha] There is more optimism in the country. Everything is encouraging us. The employment rate is growing, economic activities are growing, and the inflation rate is under control. I believe we are fine.

[Economy Minister Marcilio Marques Moreira] I believe this is a chance for dialogue and for a consensus that will involve not only the business sector and the government, but also Congress, workers, and all the active sectors of the country that are really interested in the future of Brazil. [end recording]

Workers' representatives preferred to make no forecasts. They believe, however, that this dialogue will lead to new ways of thinking and to new solutions. Trade union leaders believe that this rapprochement between the government and businessmen will be translated into concrete facts; in other words, more work and more jobs.

[Begin recording] [Vicente Paulo da Silva, Sao Bernardo do Campo metalworkers union president] Both government and businessmen must make concrete gestures to create the possibility of dialogue.

[Labor Force president Luis Antonio de Medeiros] I hope this will produce concrete results for us, (?for everyone), and for Brazil. Our great desire is for more employment. [end recording]

Agriculture Minister Discusses Expropriations

PY1906123491 Brasilia Voz do Brasil Network in Portuguese 2200 GMT 18 Jun 91

[Excerpt] Agriculture Minister Antonio Cabrera believes that the expropriation of 1 million hectares of land within the next few days will be the first step toward ending rural violence.

The government intends to settle approximately 10,000 families of rural workers this year. In his report to the CPI [Commission fro Congressional Investigations], which is investigating rural violence, the agriculture minister said that land expropriation projects involve about 700,000 hectares in areas of contention where more than 180 rural workers have been murdered over the past 10 years.

[Begin Cabrera recording] Within the next few days the president will sign a bill that orders the expropriation of 1 million hectares. This action will show the priority attention that we are granting to the areas in contention. Further proof of this is that approximately 700,000 hectares will be expropriated in areas where there is social tension, like in southern Para and Tocantins States. Moreover, within the next few days we will create a superintendency of the INCRA [National Institute of Land Reform and Settlement] in the Tocantins region, thus granting greater priority to these areas. [end recording]

There are currently 524 settlement projects in Brazil, totaling 4 million hectares that have been given to more than 94,000 families. The minister added that the government intends to confiscate, without paying any indemnization, all land on which marijuana plantations are found.

The government will today submit a bill to expropriate land used for growing psychotropic plants. The project was submitted to acting President Itamar Franco by Justice Minister Jarbas Passarinho, and Agriculture Ministry Executive Secretary Jose Lourenco.

It is hoped that this bill will be promptly approved by the two congressional houses, citing Article 243 of the Constitution which provides for expropriation for agrarian reform purposes of land that is being used to grow psychotropic plants like marijuana and epadu [Brazilian coca plant].

The justice minister said that although this project is not retroactive, since no law can be retroactive, the Agriculture and Agrarian Reform Ministry may expropriate areas used to grow psychotropic plants under Article 243 of the Constitution. [passage omitted]

Chile

Malaysian Prime Minister Begins Official Visit

PY2006030291 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0225 GMT 20 Jun 91

[Text] Santiago, 19 Jun (EFE)—Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir bin Mohamad began a four-day official visit to Chile today. According to the local Foreign Ministry, the prime minister and Chilean President Patricio Aylwin will sign four cooperation agreements.

The Malaysian politician arrived on a special flight at the head of a delegation of 180 persons, including ministers and representatives from the commerce, banking, and industrial sectors. The delegation will also visit Brazil and Argentina.

According to the Chilean Foreign Ministry, the Malaysian prime minister's visit comes within the framework of the projection toward the Pacific being implemented by the current Chilean Government, which has been in power for 15 months now.

During the official visit the Governments of Chile and Malaysia will sign agreements on trade, economic cooperation, science and technology, and payments between the Central Banks of the two countries.

Chile and Malaysia established diplomatic links through concurrent ambassadors and in 1990, with President Patricio Aylwin's government in power, the first resident Chilean ambassador, Jaime Lagos Erazo, was accredited to the Malaysian Government.

Malaysia, one of the economic giants of Asia, is seeking to use Chile, Venezuela, and Mexico as footholds for access to the rest of Latin America and the U.S. market

in view of the Americas Initiative proposed on 27 June 1990 by U.S. President George Bush, according to the Chilean Foreign Ministry.

* Opposition Toughens Positions in Congress

91SM0339C Santiago ERCILLA in Spanish
1 May 91 pp 14, 15

[Article by Juan Emilio Lafontaine]

[Text] While Chile's political climate may have cooled down, there has been a storm in Congress. It was provoked by an internal document, a memo or constitutional reform bill leaked to the press by the administration, for the purpose—say some—of weakening the congressional position on the issue of terrorism and its treatment.

RN [National Renovation] opened fire by indicating its intention of rejecting almost without discussion the 54 points contained in the memo and at the same time, denying the existence of political agreements between RN and the Coalition.

The apparent hardening of positions has reached such extremes that Senator Andres Zaldivar, president of DC [Christian Democracy] pleaded that they seek some understanding, "for the nation's sake." He also warned that if the institutional transition were brought to a halt with what he called "zero results," the political struggle and polarization could be exacerbated, and he recited a "mea culpa." "I take responsibility for the misinterpretation about Senator Guzman's successor, but the constitutional provision is poor, and for that reason we are seeking its revision." In that way he explained why the DC had agreed to support the UDI's [Independent Democratic Union] request that a UDI member be chosen to replace Senator Jaime Guzman, and not the present Senator Miguel Otero.

The story goes even beyond that, though, and dates back to one of the consequences of the assassination of the UDI politician and the antiterrorism campaign. RN has received systematic refusals to various requests it has made about this issue. It sought the removal of the interior minister, and was told no. It said President Patricio Aylwin should postpone his trip to Europe, and that trip went on as scheduled. Finally, it cited the need for the armed forces to take an active role in the antiterrorism effort, but in the end they retained only an advisory role.

Since the end of the summer congressional recess, RN has been attempting to get representation proportional to its numbers in the Senate and Chamber of Deputies leadership, and also in the committee chairmanships. To date, these requests have been rejected.

So it came as no surprise that on 22 April when the integral text of the government memo on the general constitutional reforms was learned, RN's negative position was quite emphatic.

Diez's Hard Line

Within the party some positions are tougher than others. Senator Sergio Diez said that in general, in terms of the intention to reform the Constitution, he reaffirms "the intention of defending the legal good of stability; nations which aspire to stable development cannot be changing their Constitution "all the time." He added that the government is infringing upon an old Chilean tradition, as the Constitution is not altered on the basis of election returns, but when it has not functioned well and there is national agreement to make such changes.

We asked:

[Lafontaine] Are we to understand, Senator, that during the present presidential term there will be no constitutional reforms?

[Diez] We are prepared to study a constitutional reform, but, in principle, the party philosophy is to value institutional stability above all else.

[Lafontaine] And you do not support restoring the prerogatives which the National Congress had in the past?

[Diez] I am not in favor of giving Congress grea'er powers. I support a strong presidency and I believe we need to reaffirm the powers of the president, which guarantee the orderly and hierarchical functioning of the nation.

However, Senator Sergio Onofre Jarpa did not close the door when he said that they did not support having the Constitution taken apart every so often, as that tends to destroy institutional stability.

"But I would not want to express my views until I really know what the government's position on this issue is."

The Official Word

The Executive's position was made clear by Minister of Justice Francisco Cumplido, who happened to be in Congress: "The bill they are talking about is not a government bill. It is a bill based on agreements reached earlier between the Coalition and RN. It also contains some proposals from the Constitutional Studies Group and from some attorneys who are consititutional specialists. The government submitted all this for the consideration of the Coalition parties, but the president will be the one to finally decide what will be in the bill that will be sent to Congress on 21 May."

Upon hearing about agreements between RN and UDI, the press again ran to find RN representatives, and Senator Jarpa, in his calm and deep voice, said: "They may tell me tomorrow that at some time I agreed to that. Well, everyone might have agreed about everything, but there is one thing that is official. What was agreed was agreed, and that is in the reforms approved in 1989. What was agreed by the parties' leadership and was not included in the reform...can be discussed again."

In this regard, Minister Cumplido reported what had been agreed. "We have," he said, "different levels of agreement. For example, on the membership of the Constitutional Court there was full agreement between RN and the Coalition. There were other points which the RN's Technical Constitutional Committee and the Coalition approved in general. But I understand that to date RN has fulfilled its commitments as it promised, to the level of agreement reached earlier."

Allamand's Flexibility

Andres Allamand, president of RN, spoke on the issue of the accords and explained that what is certain is RN's decision to move ahead with the reforms that should take effect during the present term, like the municipal and regional reforms, and the judicial authority. Any other proposal will take effect in 1994, during the next presidential term.

"We are not extremists on this issue; on the contrary, we are flexible," he said in a conciliatory tone. "But we do not want a reform that would split apart the central structure of the Constitution of 1980. We are not going to accept reforms related to issues that were the subject of agreements and produced the reform of 1989. Based on these two parameters, we will be flexible in analyzing without haste issues that could lead to improvements in the system. For example, reducing the presidential term, revising the powers of Congress in terms of emergency powers and other lesser issues, such as religion, the age for serving in parliament, etc."

[Lafontaine] And what about the transfer of the Carabineros and Investigations Forces to the Ministry of the Interior?

[Allamand] Well, that needs to be studied, but we are not opposed to considering it.

[Lafontaine] Why that apparent hard line about the government's proposals?

[Allamand] Because the government has consistently abused Renovation as a party, and its leaders as well. And without us no reform would have been approved. Even worse, I acted inside the party to move ahead on these issues, and then the president attacked me when he was in Europe.

Such statements from RN's leader were brought to the attention of the president of DC, Senator Andres Zaldivar, who agreed that "during the last 30 days tensions between RN and DC and the government have heightened. That is true, and I believe it is bad for the nation and for everyone. But in politics every so often these situations arise, which I hope will soon be overcome, and we will return to the path of understanding."

In congressional circles it was said that in politics, debts do get paid and that probably RN will pay when the time is right. The most experienced political insiders predicted that before 21 May there could be some reshuffling in the Senate and the Chamber of Deputies leadership to give RN the representation appropriate for its numbers in congress. In the Lower Chamber it has no position of responsibility, not even the chairmanship of any of the 20 existing working committees. In the Senate, it is not in the leadership, even though it is tied with the DC as the leading political group.

German Dignity Colony Loses Legal Status

PY1906152691 Santiago Radio Nacional de Chile Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 19 Jun 91

[Text] German Dignity Colony has been definitively dissolved now that the Constitutional Court has unanimously ratified President Patricio Aylwin's decree.

The Constitutional Court thus rejected a petition by 17 opposition and appointed senators on the alleged unconstitutionality of the presidential decree. The president of the Republic; the comptroller general; and Edgardo Palacios, the lawyer of the senators who signed the request, have been informed of the decision.

The Constitutional Court based its decision mainly on the fact that the 1980 Constitution authorizes the president of the Republic to withdraw the legal status of institutions that do not comply with the objectives for which they were created.

Colombia

Extradition Ban, Escobar Surrender Reported

National Assembly Vote on Ban

PA1906202591 Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 1733 GMT 19 Jun 91

[Text] The National Constituent Assembly has just voted on the extradition of Colombian citizens to other countries. The complete text of the article states: The extradition of those who are Colombian citizens by birth is hereby banned. The bill was approved with 51 votes in favor, three against, and five abstentions.

The Assembly members also voted to ban the extradition of foreigners residing in our country, in connection with political crimes. The result was 51 votes in favor, eight against, and five abstentions.

Medellin Cartel Members Surrender

PA1906215091 Bogota Radio Cadena Nacional in Spanish 2118 GMT 19 Jun 91

[Text] Two vehicles carrying several persons accompanied by the Antioquia Criminal Judge Marta Luz Hurtado arrived in Envigado a few minutes ago.

Radio Cadena Nacional has confirmed that John Jairo Velasquez Vasquez, alias Popeye, is among those who

have just turned themselves in to Colombian justice. Popeye is one of the most important members of the Medellin Cartel.

This marks the beginning of the surrender of the Medellin Cartel members to Colombian justice. The two vehicles drove by where reporters are posted near the top security prison at Envigado Municipality, and those who surrendered are now inside the prison.

The two vehicles are armored vehicles that were supplied by security organizations. We have yet to confirm how many persons are in the process of turning themselves in and who they are.

Escobar Surrender Confirmed

PA1906222391 Bogota Radio Cadena Nacional in Spanish 2215 GMT 19 Jun 91

[Text] An official source of the Antioquia Department Government has just confirmed to this station that Pablo Escobar Gaviria is at this time surrendering to Colombian authorities. We repeat: The process for the surrender of Escobar Gaviria is underway. This was reported by an official source of the Antioquia Department Government 30 seconds ago. The Colombian and foreign press have just been permitted inside the press room of the departmental government. We repeat: The process is under way. An official source has confirmed that Pablo Escobar Gaviria is turning himself in to the authorities. The source said: They went to get him and they will take him to the Envigado jail.

As this station has reported, two helicopters have left. One helicopter only carried the pilot. They went to get Pablo Escobar. The other helicopter carried the photographers of the Antioquia Department. It has just been confirmed that Pablo Escobar Gaviria has just turned himself to the authorities.

Escobar Arrives at Jail

PA1906224791 Bogota Radio Cadena Nacional in Spanish 2217 GMT 19 Jun 91

[Report by Jorge Eusebio Medina outside the Envigado jail—live]

[Text] It has just been confirmed that Pablo Escobar Gaviria was aboard the second helicopter that was seen here near the maximum security prison in Envigado. It has also just been confirmed that a vehicle that just drove up to the jail was transporting Antioquia judicial investigations policemen and another member of the Medellin Cartel. His name has not been obtained. It is said, however, that he is the third member of the cartel, in addition to John Jairo Velasquez Vasquez and Pablo Escobar Gaviria, to surrender to the authorities, accepting Decrees 20-47, 30-30 and 303 issued by the government. We repeat: A third person has turned himself in to the authorities. It has only been said he is another ranking member of the Medellin Cartel and very close to Pablo Escobar Gaviria.

As this station has reported, Pablo Escobar Gaviria arrived on the second helicopter that arrived at the jail.

Escobar Issues Communique

PA2006053191 Paris AFP in Spanish 0432 GMT 20 Jun 91

[Text] Medelin, Colombia, 19 Jun (AFP)—The chief of the Medellin cocaine cartel, Pablo Escobar, personally read a communique tonight at the maximum security prison at Envigado where he voluntarily surrendered today and where he says he is willing to remain for all the time that is necessary.

The full text of the communique follows:

"As a result of the policy of peace and the strengthening of justice by the president of the Republic and his cabinet, I have decided to accept decrees 2047, 2147, 2372, and 3030 of 1990 and 303 of 1991, endorsed by the attorney general, the magistrates of the Supreme Court, and the vast majority of the Colombian people.

"After seven years of persecution, outrages, and struggling, I will spend all the years in prison that are necessary to contribute toward peace in my family, peace in Colombia, greater respect for human rights, strengthening civilian power, and strengthening democracy in my beloved Colombian fatherland.

"With my surrender, I also want to render homage to all the members of the National Constituent Assembly for their great contribution to the noble cause of national peace.

"The enemies of peace are still lurking. I just came to prison, and already they are saying that I am going to violate the law while in prison.

"Only after two years are they barely able to find evidence to order my arrest for the death of Senator Luis Carlos Galan, and without capturing me, they wanted to arrange another prison for me.

"The enemies of peace are the same ones who murdered Jose Antequera, Bernardo Jaramillo, and Carlos Pizarro. The two presidential candidates of the left were always in favor of talks with the drug traffickers and no extradition of Colombians.

"The enemies of peace are the same ones who suspiciously removed Galan's personal guards a few days before his death.

"They are the same ones who placed the weapon in the restroom of the plane in which Pizarro was murdered. At this time I want to remember the words of Bernardo Jaramillo to the magazine CROMOS, a few months before his death: 'Now all of the wicked things that occur in this country are blamed on Pablo Escobar. He is the scapegoat for everything that happens. There are high-ranking officials who have to pay for their crimes.'

"The enemies of peace are the same ones who, in the previous administration, tortured, made to disappear, and dropped from helicopters hundreds of fellow countrymen. They are the same ones who slaughtered many innocent youths in the taverns and in the corners of the Medellin neighborhoods.

"I hope that there will be a trial. I will request that those who have accused me of being responsible for the deaths of the abovementioned citizens be present at the trial.

"With my surrender, I also want to pay my respects to my parents, my irreplaceable and unequaled wife, my pacifist 14-year old son, my little seven-year old dancer who is missing some teeth, and my entire family, whom I love so much.

"In these historical moments of the pacification of the fatherland and when the guerrillas are turning in their weapons, I could not remain indifferent to the hopes for peace of the vast majority of the Colombian people."

Gaviria News Conference

PA2006024091 Bogota Radio Cadena Nacional in Spanish 0004 GMT 20 Jun 91

[News conference by President Cesar Gaviria Trujillo with unidentified moderator and local and international reporters at the Narino Palace in Bogota—live]

[Text] [Gaviria] Colombians: Four drug traffickers and terrorists of the so-called Medellin Cartel turned themselves in to officials of the Criminal Investigation Directorate in Medellin today. These include Pablo Escobar Gaviria, who is considered to be the leader of this organization. These criminals have accepted the policy of submission to justice, a policy that was drawn up by the national government in September and is embodied in Decrees 20-47, 30-30, and 303, issued under the state of siege.

This policy, which has also been implemented in other countries like the United States and Italy, consists of a reduction in the sentences for crimes confessed by those who voluntarily turn themselves in to be tried, and it includes the guarantee that they will be judged here in this country. The decrees clearly state that there will be no reduction in sentences for crimes that have not been confessed but for which evidence is presented during the trial. The government has also stressed that those who are arrested will be severely punished according to the current laws. This makes the strengthening of justice a priority for the current administration. It is also an essential subject in the debates of the Constitutent Assembly, and it is absolutely necessary in the struggle against criminal organizations.

This policy does not and will not form part of any negotiation. It has been part of the unilateral nature of the government's decisions. Neither Escobar nor those who have voluntarily submitted to justice along with him in view of these decrees will receive treatment different from that which is established in the current laws. In this case as in others, the government has adopted all the necessary measures and guarantees for the security of those who submit to justice. It has proceeded in such a way that it can guarantee—as it does for any prisoner—their security. They will be held at an Envigado municipality installation which has been prepared as a maximum security jail under the responsibility of the General Directorate of Prisons. The perimeter of this installation will be under the protection of the National Army.

I must stress that the government's commitment in the struggle against drug trafficking remains unchanged. No other nation has paid such a high price, institutionally and economically, and particularly in thousands of human lives, as Colombia. The international community has to assume the responsibility it has in this struggle, which involves both producers and consumers.

We have recently strengthened those mechanisms which permit Colombian justice to try criminals for crimes committed abroad. In view of the agreements on the exchange of evidence which were signed with the United States and France, and others which are being developed with Argentina, Spain, and Great Britain, and also in view of the decree which permits the acceptance of evidence coming from other countries, we issue a new appeal to those who have requested the extradition of some of these prisoners, so that they will contribute to the proceedings that will hear the evidence of the cases.

The surrender of these criminals to Colombian justice comes at a time when our nation is defining its destiny. The government I head and the entire society have agreed to face the great challenges posed by this turbulent and complex end of the century. We will continue forward, convinced that today, more than ever, we are obliged to lay in all fields the foundation for a future of change, prosperity, and peace.

[Moderator] A news conference will now begin at the Narino Palace. Carlos Arturo Paez of the "Noticiero de las Siete" will ask the first question.

[Paez] Mr. President, Pablo Escobar's surrender does not mean the end of drug trafficking. What will your government do to prevent the emergence of other drug traffickers like Pablo Escobar?

[Gaviria] The Colombian Government and people have paid the highest price in the struggle against drug trafficking. We have given a large part of our nation's efforts, and sometimes all of the nation's efforts, to face drug trafficking. Under these circumstances, we expect the international community to do its part to turn this into a real multilateral effort by all nations, so that the burden of this struggle will not be carried in such an excessive way, as it has been so far, by the Colombian people.

[Gutierrez] Mr. President, I am Raul Gutierrez from the "24 Hours" newscast. Did Escobar present all his conditions through third parties, or did he contact you at any time to tell you what he wanted and why?

[Gaviria] The conditions for Escobar's surrender were handled by the national director for criminal arraignment, following instructions from the national government. The talks concerning Escobar's surrender and security guarantees were handled through his lawyer.

[Juarez] Mr. President, Jaime Juarez of Radio Caracol Network of Colombia. You have just said that you will not give up your struggle against drug trafficking and that there will be no step backward in this determination. How will the government face the activity of the other drug trafficking cartels that are still active in Colombia?

[Gaviria] With the same intensity with which Colombian authorities have acted so far. As we have said before, the amount of drugs confiscated in Colombia so far this year is equivalent to the total amount confiscated last year. In other words, we have more than doubled the confiscations made in 1990, which was also a record year. This proves the intensity of the struggle against drug trafficking carried out by Colombian authorities. No other country can show the effectiveness shown by Colombian authorities in confiscating drugs and facing drug trafficking. That has been our policy. We will maintain that policy, and we also expect to receive more cooperation from the international community.

[Fonseca] Mr. President, Lia Fonseca from the COLPRESS news agency. In view of a statement made today by the U.S. ambassador, would you rule out the possibility that a situation similar to what happened to Mata Ballesteros in Honduras some years ago could happen to Pablo Escobar in Colombia?

[Gaviria] I completely rule out the possibility that a situation like the one you have just mentioned could happen in Colombia. We are sure that the U.S. Government will respect Colombian territory and that a situation of that nature will never occur in our country.

[Silva] Mr. President, Vicente Silva of "The National Newscast." How do you interpret the fact that the U.S. Government has not revalidated its request for Pablo Escobar's extradition, and the fact that it has no intention of presenting evidence to judge him here in Colombia? Furthermore, do you think that the United States will take economic reprisals against Colombia for the decisions that have been made and for Escobar's surrender?

[Gaviria] First of all, I am sure that the international community realizes that the Colombian Government has stated, through the decrees I have already referred to, that anyone who voluntarily turned himself in to Colombian justice would not be extradited. I believe that the governments of other countries that are also affected by the drug problem are fully aware of this situation and that the international community will thoroughly understand this and will cooperate with Colombian justice by providing the necessary evidence to have those criminals pay for all the crimes they committed in Colombia and abroad.

In second place, I want to point out that I hope that under no circumstances will there be any sanctions over something that is positive for the entire international community. I think the international community should be satisfied, because he who is considered as perhaps the main narcotics trafficker of the world has subjected himself to Colombian justice.

[Cayon] Mr. President, good evening. I am Ricardo Cayon of the "Mediodia" newscast. In 10 months you have satisfied three aspirations of the Colombians; namely, the National Constituent Assembly, the surrender of Pablo Escobar, and a direct dialogue with the Simon Bolivar Guerrilla Coordinating Board. What more do you plan to do in your administration, and what is your immediate goal?

[Gaviria] We are seriously committed to a policy of renovating the institutions of our country, of giving the institutions of our country a new legitimacy, of cleansing the political habits of our country so that all Colombians will have faith and confidence in our institutions. We are particularly interested in strengthening Colombian justice so that it will be a great instrument for confronting violence, regardless of where it comes from. We are going to continue in this task.

I am confident that the decisions that are being made by the Constituent Assembly will serve this country as a great instrument for coping with our problems, and that with every day we will gain more trust, security, optimism, amd hope to give a bright future to the new generations of Colombians.

[Gomez] Mr. President, I am Carlos Gomez Herrera of the "Cinevision" newscast. Having settled in part the narcotics trafficking process with the Medellin Cartel now that Pablo Escobar Gaviria has surrendered, do you think there might be a positive step for a solution with the Cali Cartel?

[Gaviria] I expect that the other persons who engage in narcotics trafficking activities in Colombia will accept the decrees issued by the government. The government's policy is a policy of surrendering to Colombian justice. We hope all persons who engage in these activities will turn themselves in to our system of justice. That is what I would expect from all persons who are connected in any way to narcotics trafficking in Colombia.

[Martinez] Mr. President, I am Juan Carlos Martinez of the "Santa Fe" newscast. Tension prevailing in the struggle against narcotics trafficking in Colombia will be somewhat lessened with the surrender of Pablo Escobar Gaviria. However, what will happen with the struggle the United States is waging in the countries that produce narcotics?

We have heard reports about radar planes in Peru, and even in Colombia, those famous (Howa) planes. Is the U.S. presence evident in Colombian airspace?

[Gaviria] I want to say that our country's authorities are hoping for all the international cooperation possible in order to cope with drug trafficking. In developing this policy, we frequently receive information from various friendly countries to confront the drug trafficking problem. That is our government's policy, and we are going to remain within that policy.

We are convinced that we are paying an extremely high price to the international community. We are also fully convinced that the international community agrees that Colombia has paid a very high price in the struggle against drug trafficking. Therefore, we also hope that the U.S. Government will approve an initiative included in the Cartagena Declaration that refers to special concessions for Colombia and the Andean countries for their struggle against drug trafficking. In addition to having paid an extremely high price in human lives, this country has also paid a very high economic price. Under these circumstances, the Colombians are not expecting economic concessions, but rather trade support and access to the markets of the industrialized countries.

Last year, the EC approved an initiative that the Colombian Government values highly. Likewise, Colombia hopes the U.S. Congress will approve the initiative I mentioned, which in one way reflects or should reflect the cooperation that the international community should give Colombia under these circumstances, due to the harsh struggle our country has waged, the high cost, and the sacrifices we have made.

[Ibarra] Mr. President, this is Joaquin Ibarra from LA VANGUARDIA, Barcelona, Spain. You said you expect the international community to accept your policy of dealing with drug traffickers. However, there are hints that the United States will adopt sanctions against Colombia because of the treatment given to the drug traffickers. How would you react if the United States adopted these sanctions as they did a few years ago after the release of Jorge Luis Ochoa. Some of them were humiliating for Colombians. In addition, what do you expect from the EEC? Do you think it will follow the U.S. policies, or do you think it will adopt a more independent position with regard to Colombia?

[Gaviria] I am sure that neither the Colombian Government nor the Colombian people would understand any form of sanction for a situation that must be taken in a positive manner by the international community. We are subjecting drug traffickers to Colombian justice, in this case the most important drug trafficker in the world. We would never understand such a reaction, and we do not believe that this will be the reaction of the U.S. Government, the Congress, or the U.S. people. A large number of rumors have been spread regarding alleged conditions that have existed for the surrender of drug trafficker Pablo Escobar Gaviria and the others who accompanied him today. I have to say that these rumors are false. They do not correspond to reality. All of the actions taken by the National Criminal Investigation Directorate were meant to guarantee conditions of security. The other rumors, beginning with the prison rumor, were not true. I am referring to the prison where this drug trafficker and a group of his followers will be sent. It is an ordinary jail. It is considered to be a maximum security prison. It is simply a decent prison with nothing out of the ordinary. It does not have the characteristics that certain international media mentioned. Colombian and international journalists had the opportunity to look at it, and they found out that it was just a prison with the minimum conditions of decency. What the government has ensured, through the National Criminal Investigation Directorate, are conditions of security, because that is the right, not only of Colombian drug traffickers, but of all prisoners in all countries that respect human rights.

[Reporter] [Question indistinct]

[Gaviria] Up to the present, the EEC has shown a desire to support Colombia and all Andean countries. Last year the EEC approved a generous initiative that will allow European countries to gain access to a large number of products from Colombia and other Andean countries. We value this support, and we are convinced that they are going to continue helping us in this struggle. The EEC has been generous with Colombia. It has helped us; it has given us preferential treatment in the area of trade. That is why we show our gratitude; we have expressed this gratitude to the EEC on numerous occasions. This support does not compensate us for all the economic sacrifices we have made, but it shows the cooperation and solidarity of the international community.

[Moderator] Carlos Moreno from EL ESPECTADOR.

[Moreno] Mr. President, the government said no concessions would be made to drug traffickers beyond the ones that have already been established in the decrees on their subjection to justice. However, the government negotiated prison conditions when a prison with the necessary security measures already existed.

[Gaviria] Yes, the lawyer and this group of drug traffickers considered the security conditions insufficient, and in view of the large number of enemies that this drug trafficker evidently has, we thought it was necessary to grant special security conditions. We finally made the decision that this prison in Antioquia Department was the one with the best security. The decision that has been made, however, is a decision that should be exclusively understood in terms of security, which is a right of prisoners. It is out of respect for this right that these decisions have been made.

[Moderator] [Name indistinct] from EL TIEMPO.

[Station announcer Juan Gossain] This is the president of the Republic at a news conference in Narino Palace. This is Radio Cadena Nacional. A question is being

asked the president, but the microphone is too far away. Let us listen to the president's response now.

[Gaviria] We place our hopes and trust in Colombian justice. I certainly cannot say how the judges will react in this case. Certainly the Colombian legal system is confronted with many charges against these people. However, we have many judges and we trust in the system's efficiency. We have to make it work efficiently. Today the Constituent Assembly decided to suspend extraditions until 4 July, and this decision obliges and commits us to ensure to Colombian citizens and foreign nations that our justice is effective. We have to struggle to make it efficient. I hope that the Constituent Assembly's decision is correct and that it will give us the necessary mechanisms to ensure to the international community that Colombia will not become a sanctuary for criminals and that those who subject themselves to our justice will be tried and convicted for their crimes here and for the ones committed against the international community.

[Uribe] Good evening, Mr. President. I am Patricia Uribe of (Ecomundo Radio). Some people say that many terrorist actions were not the work of drug traffickers, but of CIA and DEA agents who are against banning extradition. Is there a possibility that we will have to suffer retaliations because of banning extradition? Could there be repercussions because the Assembly approved the banning of extradition and Pablo Escobar surrendered?

[Gaviria] No. I believe the international community respects decisions made by Colombian sovereign organizations, such as the Constituent Assembly. We have always believed that extradition was a useful instrument to confront drug trafficking and other crimes of an international nature. However, we also respect the Constituent Assembly's decision. We have always believed that extradition could not be the only or the first mechanism used to confront drug trafficking. Today, more than ever—when the principal leaders of the biggest drug cartel have surrendered to Colombian justice, and of course because the Assembly has made the decision that we have already mentioned— we are obliged to strengthen Colombian justice.

[De la Espriella] Good evening, Mr. President. I am Domingo de la Espriella of Cadena Todelar. I understand there are specific laws in regard to the drug traffickers' properties. However, and independently from these rulings, is there a possibility of using Pablo Escobar's fortune—if it is proven that it is the result of drug trafficking activity—to pay Colombia's foreign debt as he himself proposed at one time? Will his opinion be taken into account in regard to the use of his fortune?

[Gaviria] I want to point out the following: This drug trafficker, the ones that surrendered with him today, and the ones that have surrendered previously wlil be given the treatment stipulated in the decrees. At no time did the national director of criminal investigation, under my instructions, discuss any conditions other than the security of these drug traffickers. The penalty reductions will depend on their cooperation with Colombian justice. So, this is my answer. We do not have any other agreement. All the talks that took place between Pablo Escobar's lawyer and our national director of criminal investigation were exclusively on security. We did not talk about surrendering property or anything else. This is the responsibility of the judge that will handle the case.

[Porto] Good evening, Mr. President. I am Gloria de Porto of Cadena Super. Now that the Constituent Assembly has voted in favor of non-extradition and it is also known that Carlos Lederer recently wrote Father Garcia Herreros and asked the priest not to forget him, will you request that the United States repatriate the Colombians who are in U.S. jails?

[Gaviria] First, I want to emphasize that I cannot announce how the government is going to act in regard to the Assembly's final decisions. The decisions are still on the first round of debates and have not passed to the second debate. It would be incorrect if I asserted what is going to be done about decisions that have still not been fully approved and are being debated. Before deciding on what the government must do, I need a consolidated decision from the legal point of view.

Second, I want to highlight the work done by Father Garcia Herreros. His humanitarian efforts to get the hostages released, the work he has done with these drug traffickers to get them to understand that they could trust the government's decrees, and the advice he surely must have given them to get them to surrender to Colombian justice are highly commendable.

[Portel] John Portel of the Cadena Radial Autentica. I have two questions. What consequences will Pablo Escobar Gaviria's surrender have for Colombia? Do you believe his surrender has anything to do with the Constituent Assembly's approval of the ban on extradition today?

[Gaviria] I want to answer those two questions the following way. First of all, I want to point out that at no time—at least this is the information I have—was there any link between the talks held by Pablo Escobar Gaviria's lawyer and the national director of criminal investigations and the decisions made by the Constituent Assembly. The topic was not broached by that lawyer, and in no way would the government have accepted even to discuss the topic or hear some suggestion. The decision made by the Constitutent Assembly is a sovereign decision, and at no time can there be any link or connection between these two actions, even though they coincided with each other.

Second, I want to point out that I trust—obviously, I can only trust, I cannot state with certainty—that this will be the end of narcoterrorism in Colombia. Obviously I cannot give guarantees because there are other people involved in these criminal activities in Colombia, but there is great confidence among all Colombians that narcoterrorism will end, that these people will not continue to confront justice and Colombian society by using

terrorism, and that there will be increasingly higher numbers of criminals who will submit, who will accept the rules of the game in our society, and who will not maintain these attitudes which have caused so much harm to Colombian society.

[Unidentified reporter] We have learned about U.S. President Bush's initial reaction. He has said he would like to see Pablo Escobar in a U.S. jail, but since that cannot be done, he will carefully watch Colombian justice and how it will be applied to Pablo Escobar. What is your comment?

[Gaviria] Well, I do not like to comment on statements that I have not heard personally. However, if that is what he said, I believe that he is confident, as all Colombians should be, that we are capable of strengthening our justice in such a way that crimes committed in Colombia and abroad will be punished.

DEA Plane Said To Violate Valle Airspace

PA2006004891 Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 0000 GMT 19 Jun 91

[Text] Our "24 Hours" newscast today has learned the details of the military air pursuit of an aircraft presumed to be carrying drugs in the airspace over Tulua, Valle. Once again, it was proved that DEA airplanes fly over Colombian territory.

There is a radar station in Colombia on the Ecuadoran border that is still controlled by DEA. That radar picked up an unidentified light airplane that entered the country from the south. Authorities in charge of the radar station immediately advised the Air Force base in Palanquero. Two Mirage airplanes took off in pursuit of the light plane, which was presumably being used for drug trafficking, but another aircraft was already following the plane. It was a DEA Hercules aircraft which had violated Colombian airspace to pursue the light plane, which was later sighted flying over Tulua, in Valle del Cauca. To escape from the military air operation, the light plane continued to circle over the city area for 45 minutes at a very low altitude. Meanwhile, the two Air Force Mirage planes did not let it out of sight, but the pilot of the light plane was aware that the two military planes carry only enough fuel for one hour. Thus, the two Mirages were obliged to return to their base at Palanquero to refuel. The Air Force then alerted police and aeronautics authorities in five nearby airports.

Meanwhile, the DEA plane, the Hercules, continued to pursue the light plane, which took advantage of the absence of the two Mirage planes to land at Pereira Airport, where the crew escaped. The U.S. Hercules never contacted the Pereira control tower.

One wonders: Is a truly effective method being used to control drug trafficking in the air? Why were the police and air authorities in Pereira unable to do anything? Why do DEA airplanes continue to fly in Colombian airspace without permission? Are the Mirage or Kfir planes effective for air surveillance against drug trafficking? Why have the generals said nothing up to now?

The reports that were released yesterday on this newscast regarding the aforementioned incident caused commotion at high military levels. Indeed, recorded statements used in our cast last night were denied today for some strange reason, and those who know anything about the matter were forbidden to speak to the press.

The involvement of the DEA plane in the air pursuit on Sunday is again getting the country embroiled in the game of disinformation. The first report regarding the origin of the airplane was given by Jose G. Rodriguez, police commander of Risaralda, but surprisingly, as you will hear, he retracted his statements later today.

[Begin Rodriguez recording] The U.S. radar plane pursued the light plane, but the light plane landed in Pereira and the two pilots fled. The U.S. plane did not alert the control tower, and no prior information was given that would have made it possible to make arrangements for the crewmen to be detained. [end recording]

[Begin later recording] [Rodriguez] I have said nothing about a radar airplane.

[Reporter] We have your statements, Colonel.

[Rodriguez] What did I say?

[Reporter] You said that the radar plane... .

[Rodriguez, interrupting] If I said it, I'll correct myself now. It is good to clarify things. I am responsible for what I said, but I have no official information regarding the presence of DEA airplanes here in this department. [end recording]

The confusing reports do not end there. The "24 Hours" newscast found out what the Pereira air controllers saw. First, the U.S. Hercules plane flew over the city for 45 minutes. It withdrew only after the light aircraft under pursuit had landed. Second, on seeing the unidentified airplane, the operators tried repeatedly to make contact with it, but received no answer. The controllers gave a description of the plane.

After the incident, the control tower operators were forbidden to talk about what had happened. Despite all this, and the existence of our photographs of what happened on Sunday, the Air Force has not issued any official comment to deny or acknowledge the presence of U.S. airplanes, which are participating for the first time in surveillance operations in Colombian territory.

Paraguay

President To Attend Summit, Visit Venezuela

PY1906235891 Asuncion NOTICIAS in Spanish 19 Jun 91 p 12

[Text] Government sources reported yesterday that President Andres Rodriguez will visit Venezuela next 22-24 July in response to an official invitation from President Carlos Andres Perez.

Rodriguez' official visit will help strengthen Paraguayan-Venezuelan relations and at the same time allow the two countries to examine prospects for further cooperation in the economic, social, and political fields. President Perez is one of the chiefs of state who has voiced support for Paraguay.

It should be noted that President Rodriguez will make his official visit to Venezuela after the summit of Latin American presidents on 18-19 July in Guadalajara, Mexico, taking advantage of his presence in the area.

In Guadalajara, President Rodriguez will participate in the Ibero-American summit with another 22 Latin American presidents, Spain's King Juan Carlos, and the Portuguese prime minister to discuss various issues of common interest to these nations. A final declaration will be released at the end of the meeting.

According to reports, President Rodriguez will make an approximately eight-minute speech at the international event.

Agriculture Minister Meets Brazilian Counterpart

PY1406222391 Asuncion PATRIA in Spanish 14 Jun 91 p 1

[Text] Antonio Cabrera Mano Filho and Raul Torres, agriculture ministers of Brazil and Paraguay, respectively, will issue a joint declaration today. The Brazilian agriculture minister arrived in our country yesterday and stated: "We are complying with the resolutions issued by the government of President Fernando Collor de Mello, who wants to intensify trade relations with all Southern Cone countries, especially Paraguay."

The two agriculture ministers yesterday met at the Paraguayan agriculture minister's office to discuss the integration of the Mercosur [Common Market of the South] and issues involving meat, wheat, wood, and the boll weevil.

The Brazilian agriculture minister will return to his country at 1400 this afternoon.

Brazil Offers Broad Cooperation

PY1506131491 Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish 15 Jun 91 p 14

[Excerpts] On 14 June Antonio Cabrera Mano Filho and Raul Torres, agriculture ministers of Brazil and Paraguay, signed two agreements for cooperation in the milk production sector and in fighting the boll weevil. [passage omitted]

It is appropriate to mention that the Brazilian agriculture minister met with President Andres Rodriguez 14 June. After the meeting Minister Cabrera said that his country wants to eliminate all bureaucratic trade barriers at ports so as to facilitate the circulation of Paraguayan products in Brazil. Agriculture works better "when the bureaucrats are sleeping," Cabrera had said in a meeting with agricultural exporters.

Dec Constituent Assembly Election Planned

PY1906191091 Asuncion PATRIA in Spanish 19 Jun 91 p 7

[Excerpt] On 18 June the government announced that the people will be called on to elect the members of the constituent assembly who will be in charge of amending the current Constitution in compliance with the decision made by the national assembly on 12 June.

A resolution signed by President Andres Rodriguez states that the elections will be held on 1 December 1991 in keeping with a law that will be promulgated in due time, as established in Article 223 of the Constitution. [passage omitted]

Peru

Miners Federation Calls Off National Strike

PY1906233691 Madrid EFE in English 1804 GMT 19 Jun 91

[Text] Lima, June 19 (EFE)—The Peruvian Miners' Federation on Wednesday [19 June] called off an indefinite national strike begun two days earlier, because only a small minority of union locals had joined the stoppage. Miners' Federation Secretary General Freddy Flores admitted that only seven of 115 locals had participated in the strike, which began Monday.

Flores blamed the "militarization" of some mines for the failure of the stoppage, adding that a miner was killed and dozens more were injured in clashes with troops.

If all of Peru's 80,000 miners and metal workers had joined the strike, it would have cost some six million dollars per day in losses to the crucial sector.

Some 400,000 people are currently on strike in other sectors, pressing for wage rises to keep up with spiraling inflation. They were joined by many of Peru's 800,000 state workers who stayed home Wednesday, the second day of a 48-hour stoppage.

Some 18,000 nonteaching university staff began an indefinite strike on Tuesday, while stoppages continued in schools and hospitals.

Executive Branch Given Legislative Powers

PA1906141791 Lima RTP Television Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 18 Jun 91

[Text] Beginning today and for a period of 150 days, the executive branch will legislate in matters of peace, employment, and investment.

The executive branch will draft national peace policy guidelines, which will include strategies to fight drug trafficking and deal with the guerrillas. It will also promote the creation of new jobs and the increase of private investment. These are the three basic areas, over which the executive branch will legislate starting today and for a period of 150 days within the framework of the powers granted by the legislative branch.

As for the country's economic policy, it should, first of all, allow for a massive access to jobs, the creation of job opportunities, and an easing of hiring requirements. The investment of private capital should also be encouraged creating the necessary conditions in the various productive centers.

As for the area of peace, the measures will be aimed at restoring the system of national defense and establishing a joint operations command with the purpose of improving the military and police actions in the struggle against narcoterrorism.

Fisheries Minister Denies Irregularities

PA1906164391 Lima TV Canal 13 in Spanish 0100 GMT 15 Jun 91

[Text] Fisheries Minister Felix Canal Torres today denied Senator Luis Bedoya's charge that fishing rights have been granted to foreign enterprises in an irregular manner.

[Begin Canal Torres recording] Well, the senator has been misinformed. I greatly regret his statements, which have generated unnecessary alarm. First of all, with regard to the Koreas, this chart here is a synthesis of the recent fishing concessions that have been granted to Peruvian enterprises. [sentence as heard] Wholefish, Estapeco and Peruco are three Peruvian companies that, under the system of paying registration fees, have been allowed to begin operating these Japanese and Korean boats, which are currently authorized to extract their quota of fish [sentence as heard].

As a result of the cholera epidemic, since the small fishermen were the ones primarily affected, we decided to raise the fee per storage capacity. At that time, my ministry ordered an analysis. We raised the fee from $80 to $200, with $120 being allocated basically to support small fisherman. That fund has served....[changes thought] For the first time, the ministry has demanded that concession fees be paid up front at the time the concession is requested. [end recording]

Suspected Colombian Drug Plane Shot Down

PY2006034491 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0321 GMT 20 Jun 91

[Excerpt] Lima, 19 Jun (EFE)—The Peruvian Air Force (FAP) has reported that on 19 June Peruvian military planes shot down a small airplane with Colombian registration as it overflew Peruvian territory without the appropriate authorization.

An official FAP communique reports that the small plane was shot down after it ignored an order to land and began "evasive maneuvers."

The communique does not give any more details on the incident nor does it mention the area over which the incident took place, but official sources have reported that it was over the coca-producing region of Alto Huallaga, where Colombian drug planes fly to pick up cargos of basic cocaine paste which they transport to Colombia to convert into pure cocaine. [passage omitted]

Venezuela

Former Governor Ramirez Linked to Drugs

PA1906183591 Caracas Venezolana de Television Network Spanish 0000 GMT 18 Jun 91

[Text] There was amazement and concern at the Democratic Action [AD] party offices over the arrest of former Governor and Deputy Interior Affairs Minister Adolfo Ramirez Torres for allegedly being linked to international drug trafficking. Many could not believe it and refused to accept it, but the situation changed after the leaders, who attended the meeting of the Operations Committee with President Perez, heard the details and connections. Apparently, the evidence against him is so clear that they did not hesitate to expel him from the party.

However, they do not want this situation to be seen as a political action and regretted that this has happened in the country.

[Begin AD Secretary General Humberto Celli recording] We have heard and believe the information released during the meeting held today at La Casona [presidential house], which indicates that Adolfo Ramirez Torres has fallen into criminal activities. Therefore, AD expelled him from the party this morning and honestly regrets that this situation has taken place in the country. [end recording]

We learned from unofficial sources that Adolfo Ramirez Torres, among others, was being investigated in accordance with information provided by the DEA. This led to his arrest and, now, the authorities are trying to find his connections.

Other versions suggested that there is a list of 300 persons who are being investigated, including persons linked to the financial, political, and other sectors.

In light of this persistent rumor, we sought the opinion of AD leader Luis Pinerua Ordaz.

[Begin recording] [Unidentified reporter] There are rumors about there being political leaders or sons of the country's political leaders being involved in drug trafficking. Do you know anything about this?

[Pinerua Ordaz] I do not rule it out. There could also be relatives of businessmen and military personnel. There is even a priest in jail for drug trafficking. There is also a retired general. Several businessmen have been arrested. In Washington, the mayor himself is in jail for the same thing. [end recording]

Apparently the security corps' investigation goes beyond our borders since they are following in the footsteps of several Venezuelans who deposit millions of dollars in U.S. banks every month and others who gamble away large amounts in Caribbean casinos, primarily in Aruba.

Adolfo Ramirez Torres will appear before Judge Norma Cabrera's court on 18 June to deliver statements.

* Rising Costs of PDVSA Development Studied

91SM0342A Caracas NUMERO in Spanish
19 May 91 pp 25-26

[Article by Martin Garate]

[Text] The government's strong interest in using petroleum and petrochemical projects to promote a definitive economic recovery, and not as just one component of the economic adjustment program, deserves some attention.

The recent visit by President Carlos Andres Perez to the United States seems to indicate an intention of promoting, at the highest political levels, plans for the IPPCN [National Petroleum, Petrochemical and Coal Industry] as the key to attracting international capital, as well as an attempt to ensure an ongoing relationship and cooperation between producers and consumers, by expressing interest in arranging a meeting between the two groups, though the suggestion did not meet with favor from George Bush. This comes as no surprise after the favorable outcome of U.S. power in the conflict with Iraq.

Perez's visit to the oil-producing states of Texas, Oklahoma and California suggests a trend toward greater openness to international capital on the part of the petroleum industry, by going precisely where potential investors are to be found. But of course, without going so far as privatization. President CAP [Carlos Andres Perez] himself said that such a possibility is still quite remote.

Package vs. Package

The Petroleum Industry's Accelerated Growth Plan, which was released by industry sources last November, sought the sum of 1.20 trillion bolivars for the plan's development between 1991 and 1996 at the then exchange rate of 53 bolivars to $1. That is about $19 billion.

The objective of this plan is still in effect in terms of developing the potential production, with expectations of producing up to 3,250,000 barrels per day by 1996, with the consequent need to place that volume of petroleum in international markets. Based on market trends, that will primarily be in the United States.

The plan was presented by PDVSA [Venezuelan Petroleum, Inc.] to its stockholders at the stockholders meeting held last December. Although the plan was not approved in its entirety, the amount allocated for investments in 1991 corresponds more or less to the average per year needed to reach the investment goal by the end of the period. The IPPCN investments for the current year are 190 billion bolivars, according to the Cordiplan [Office of Coordination and Planning] Operational Plan presented in March.

But all those amounts differ considerably from those listed in the Eighth Plan, which set the IPPCN investment for the 1990-1993 period at 408 billion bolivars, an average of 102 billion a year, which was exceeded both by the 199 billion investment in 1990 and by what is supposed to be invested this year.

So the IPPCN and the effects its investments will have on the economy seem to be going beyond the planners' intentions. They had advocated a production apparatus distinct from petroleum, aimed fundamentally toward exports. During the two years of this administration that hope has been far from being achieved; in reality, the petroleum industry is taking precedence over the economic package.

More Money

The most significant aspect of all is that the investment figures are still rising. IPPCN information now places the amount for the 1991-1996 period at $34 billion, which is equivalent to 1.87 trillion bolivars, based on the current exchange rate of 55 bolivars to $1. Its impact will obviously be as great or greater than the figure originally proposed. If we disregard what will be invested in 1991 according to the Cordiplan documents—190 billion bolivars—a 1.68 trillion investment would still remain. That comes to an extraordinary annual average of 336 billion bolivars starting in 1992.

The investment for just the 1990-1995 period will come to 1.2 trillion bolivars, more than the total investment plan proposed by Cordiplan in the Eighth National Plan for social projects, infrastructure projects to support production and basic industries, which was 1.065 trillion bolivars.

It could be argued that this is all the result of inflation, but it is not possible to sustain such an argument. It is simply and plainly that petroleum, with the burden of its extensive overhead costs, wants to once again take control of the Venzuelan economy, placing in doubt the consistency of the economic program as it was originally designed.

If the petroleum prospects forecasted by PDVSA are true, one of which estimates that for 1995 the IPPCN could be providing between $45 and $50 billion in revenues, then what is petroleum's role in the economic reorganization, or is it that the PDVSA plans are not integrated in the Cordiplan strategy?

Certain Financing?

Moreover, it is good to be able to say exactly where the resources needed for this financing will come from, for there could be a dispute about petroleum revenues between the state, which wants to continue receiving them through tax channels, and PDVSA, which will need higher net profits to be able to cover the costs of its investment without resorting to the international financial market and going into debt. PDVSA's chairman has on a number of occasions indicated that he thinks the tax rate aplied to the IPPCN should be reduced in order to ensure the proposed investments. That has not happened, and PDVSA is getting ready to issue $300 million in bonds to be sold abroad.

In promoting the opening up of the IPPCN, the Minister of Energy and Mines, Celestino Armas, who accompanied President Carlos Andres Perez to the United States, suggested that Venezuela might pay for petroleum-related investments made with foreign capital with oil.

But what is most important in practice is knowing where the resources for these plans will come from, since the IPPCN's net foreign currency earnings would not be enough to cover tax payments to the treasury and the programmed investments at the same time.

The same can be said if part of this financing is provided by foreign investment. How much would be foreign investment and how much would be Venezuelan investment? This is not simply a media obsession about ferreting out data and information from the IPPCN, which at times guards its data with jealous secrecy, but it is rather that these investments may be starting to change the course of our economic policy, not only through their impact on the entire economy, but also because in the end, these plans do not say precisely whether it is on the basis of the expansion, opening, and development of the IPPCN megaprojects that the administration plans to reach the "Great Turning Point" announced when Carlos Andres Perez became president. That would seem to be the case.

Guyana

U.S. Aid To Fund Development Projects

FL1906143791 Bridgetown CANA in English 1152 GMT 19 Jun 91

[Text] Georgetown, Guyana, June 19, CANA—Guyana and the United States have signed a memorandum of understanding on the disbursement of nearly 800 million dollars (one Guyana dollar equals 0.80 U.S. cents) for developmental projects. Some 470 million dollars will go towards the improvement of drainage and irrigation systems and sea defences here.

The Institute of Small Enterprise Development (ISED) will get 115 million dollars to finance and promote development of small industries. Another 90 million dollars will go to the Finance Ministry and 70 million dollars to the Guyana National Authority (GNA) for the promotion of a sustainable tropical forestry programme.

The aid is part of the United States' "PL-480" food assistance programme. The U.S. supplies Guyana with wheat and the money generated by the sale here is used to fund development projects. The agreement for this year's supply of wheat is worth U.S 6.1 million dollars. More than U.S. 1.6 million dollars worth of wheat has arrived so far, officials at the signing said.

Hoyte, Venezuelan President Hold 1-Day Talks

FL1906141091 Bonaire Trans World Radio in English 1130 GMT 19 Jun 91

[Text] Guyanese President Desmond Hoyte traveled to Venezuela for a one-day meeting with Venezuelan President Carlos Andres Perez yesterday. At a news conference, the two men affirmed their commitment to what is being called the McIntyre Process, a mediated resolution to the countries' long-standing border dispute. It is named for University of the West Indies Vice Chancellor Alister McIntyre who is attempting to mediate the dispute at the invitation of the United Nations.

New Commission Confident of Fair Elections

FL2006020791 Bridgetown CANA in English 2145 GMT 19 Jun 91

[Report by Urrel Wilkinson]

[Text] Georgetown, Guyana June 19, CANA—A reconstituted Guyana Elections Commission, after a first meeting Tuesday, said it believes a sound base has been laid for ensuring general elections, due by year-end, are free and fair.

It said, "accommodations already made by the president of Guyana, as well as the presence of international observers, provided a sound base upon which (the commission) could forge the kind of machinery required to

remove all bases for allegations of fraud and vote rigging and to ensure that the process will be transparently free and fair."

The commission has been expanded from three to seven members, including three opposition nominees and a new chairman, former diplomat Rudy Collins, appointed by President Desmond Hoyte from a list submitted by the opposition.

Collins on Wednesday praised the way the commission has gone about its work and the commitment of each member to "rise above his assumed party affiliation" to make a contribution in the national interest.

"It is the kind of beginning which encourages one to feel that although the commission has a very difficult road ahead, it is prepared to work together towards ensuring that the machinery is in place for a free and fair election," Collins said.

A statement by the commission said it recognised its composition reflected political partisanship, but such conduct would be self-defeating. It said its principal concern is to set up machinery to completely eliminate "any possibility of the forthcoming elections being tainted by allegations of wholesale fraud."

The commission, advising that all political parties have a role in ensuring voters' confidence in the electoral process, urged parties to prepare themselves to closely examine the preliminary voters' list. It said this action is required to ensure the final result will be a list of eligible voters which all parties recognise as a fair representation of the registered voting population of Guyana.

"The commission is aware of the many allegations of abuse within the electoral process as well as the numerous suggestions that have been made, designed to ensure that these abuses are removed." The commission said it will in a fair and just manner examine all such allegations, which it said reflect a deep-seated loss of confidence in the electoral machinery and a fear of similar abuses in the coming elections.

The commission is scheduled to meet again Friday to discuss more "substantive" issues, and will meet as often as is necessary to get its work done, Collins said.

Suriname

Army, Jungle Commando To Hold Peace Talks

PY2006014091 Paramaribo Radio Suriname International in English 1730 GMT 19 Jun 91

[Text] A six-man-strong mixed commission of the National Army and the Jungle Commando will discuss various questions aimed at achieving peace, [words indistinct] the stability in the country. The mixed commission will deal with questions relating to the definite ending of the armed clashes, the position of the Jungle Commando members, total amnesty, the surrendering of weapons and ammunition, and the inviting of relevant international observers.

The installation of the commission has resulted from discussions held last Sunday [16 June] between delegations of the National Army and the Jungle Commando at Potosi, in mid-Suriname.

During the four-hour-long discussion, which according to a release from the cabinet of the military authority was the beginning of the final round of peace discussions, both the leadership of the National Army and the Jungle Commando emphasized that a definite end should be put to the armed hostilities.

This took place in the presence of the village board of Potosi. According to the cabinet of the military authority, concrete conditions for the creation of peace are now on the table, which should lead to a healthy base for economic growth and the general well-being in the country, especially the interior.

The delegation of the National Army included, among others, Army Commander Desi Bouterse, Commander (Chasmenauf), and Henck Herrenberg, while the Jungle Commando was, among others, represented by Johan Castro and Kofi Ajongpong.

Three Meetings Held

PY2006012091 Paramaribo Radio Suriname International in English 1730 GMT 19 Jun 91

[Text] A delegation of the National Army led by Commander Desi Bouterse has held several meetings with the (Paramo) chief of the Saramacca Bush Negro tribe, (Tongo Aboikoni), from Friday to Sunday last [16 June] at Asidonhopo, on the upper Suriname River.

During three meetings, reprehensible acts of some soldiers and members of the Jungle Commando in upper Suriname, and the social-economic situation of the (Siliches) in this area were discussed.

[Word indistinct] installation of (Paramo) Chief (Aboikoni) has taken the standpoint that members of the Army as well as those of the Jungle Commando should leave his area so that peace could return there.

Shortly before the elections the Army as well as the Jungle Commando retreated from the area. But after the elections, members of the Jungle Commando began to position in some parts of the area.